



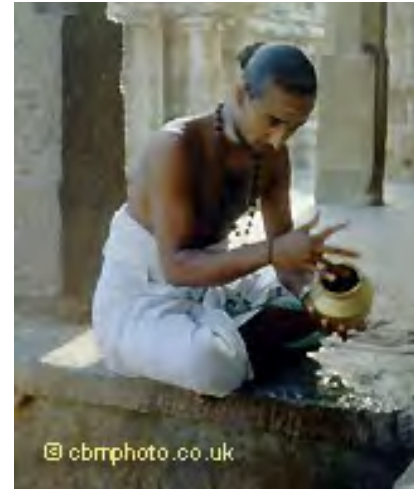
The Priesthood of Judaism

*Leadership in the
Old Testament*

Introduction



one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion, especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God



A Hindu Priest's Day



6am: Rise and prayer

7am: 1st bath followed by morning duties (washing and cleaning)

8am: Breakfast (lower ranks to feed gods and bathe them)

9am: Teaching and meeting of people's or other matters on hand

11am: 2nd bath and prayers

12pm: Lunch followed by rest and feeding of gods

1pm: Other duties (funerals, prayers, advice)

3pm: 3rd bath plus washing and dressing of gods

4pm: Priestly rites (sacrifice)

6pm: Dinner and further meditation (feeding of gods)

7pm: Closing and cleaning of temple

A close-up photograph of an ancient Egyptian mummy's face, showing the eyes, nose, and mouth. The mummy is wrapped in dark, textured material, likely papyrus or linen. The word "Egyptian" is overlaid in a white, stylized, gothic-style font across the center of the face. The image is framed by a white border with a grey shadow effect on the right and bottom sides.

Egyptian

Egyptian Priesthood

- **Election and types of priests**
- **Purification laws**
- **Duties**



Election & Types

Egyptian belief:

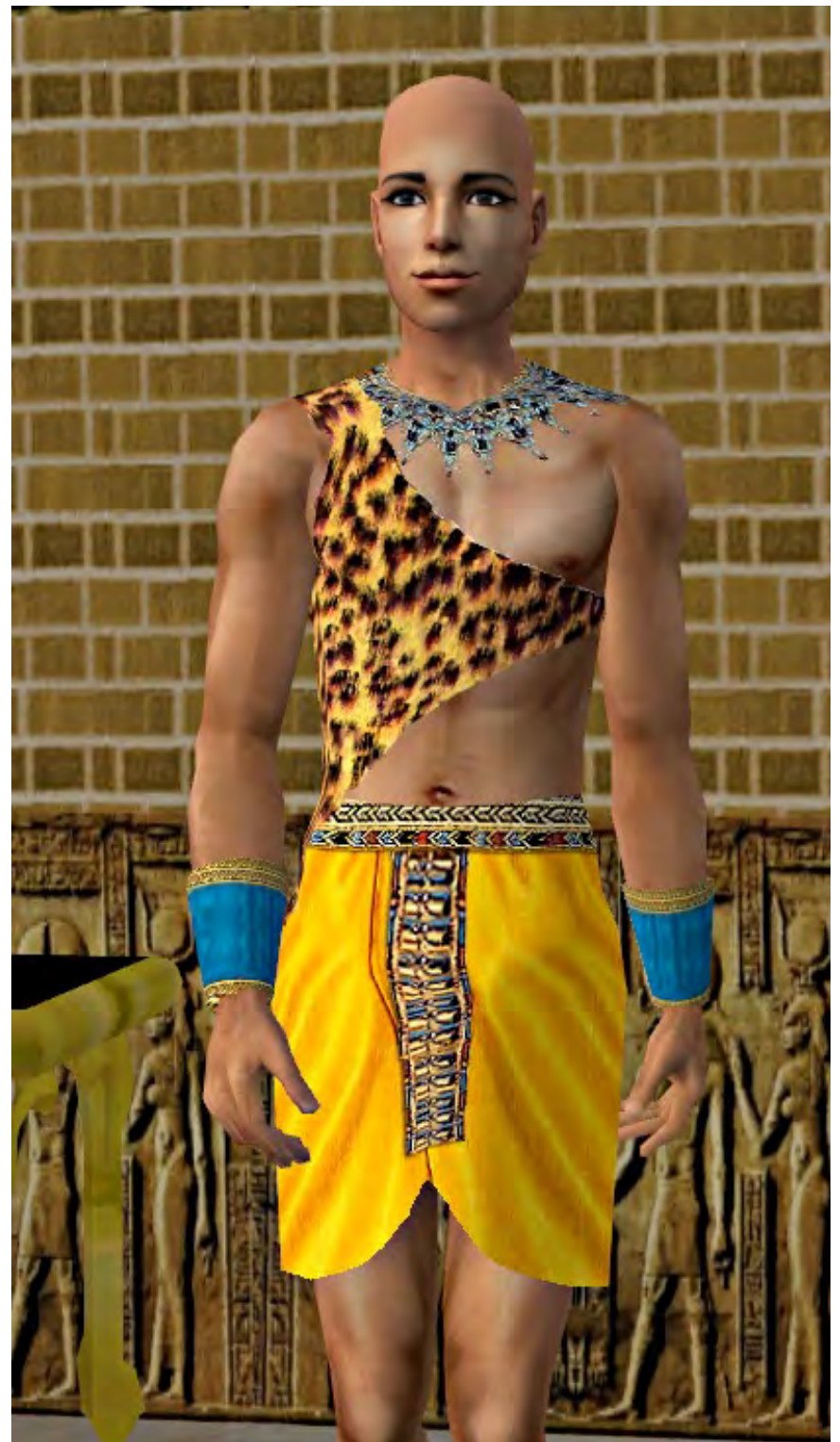
- **World created, ordered and governed by gods through pharaoh**
- **A god for every aspect of life, even in putting on make-up**
- **The gods must be honoured and attended to every day or life is threatened**

Election & Types

Priesthood may be:

- **Conferred by the pharaoh**
- **Inherited from father by son, grandson or other family member**
- **Purchased**

Priesthood coveted for its privileges & prestige



Election & Types

- **Chief priest – Pharaoh**
- **High priest – Pharaoh's political advisor; oversees magical rites and ceremonies**
- **Lector priest (*kher heb*) – recites sacred ritual and religious texts**
- **"Specialist" priests – in charge of horology, astrology and healing**

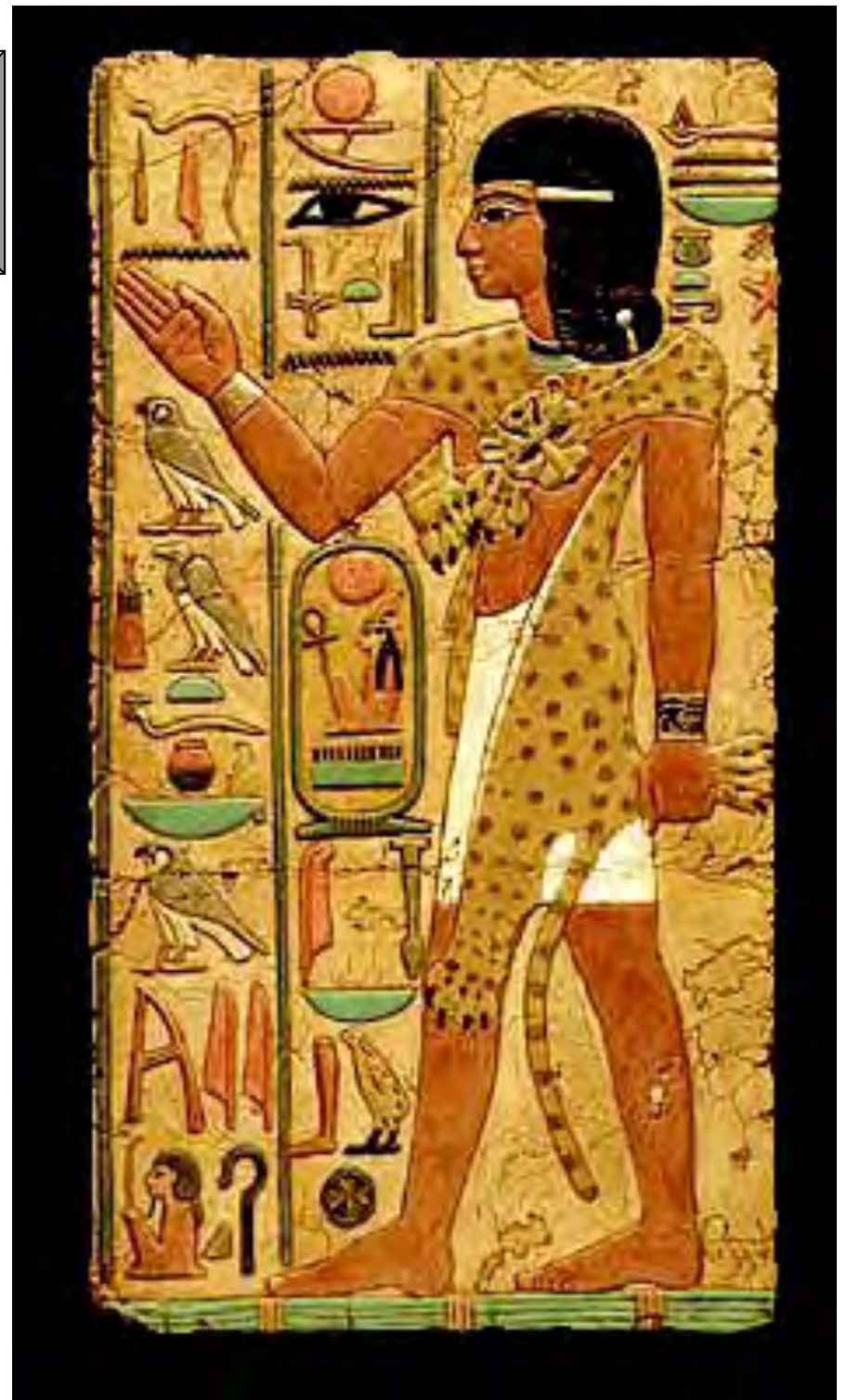


- **Lay magicians – community service providers (e.g. counseling, magical arts, healing)**
- **Scribes – writing magical texts, issuing royal decrees, maintaining records**
- **Priestesses – singing, music and dance**



Election & Types

- **Priests had secular careers**
- **May marry and have children**
- **Called to duty one month in three**
- **Organised in four phyles**



Purification Laws

Before temple service:

- **Must wash**
- **Must shave**
- **Must abstain from sexual activity**
- **Must avoid certain food (e.g., fish)**
- **Must avoid wearing wool or leather**



Duties

- **Not to proselytise**
- **Not to spread teaching about god's superiority**
- **Not to oversee people's spiritual or moral welfare**
- **Not to perform acts of appeasement or sacrifice for the benefit of people**

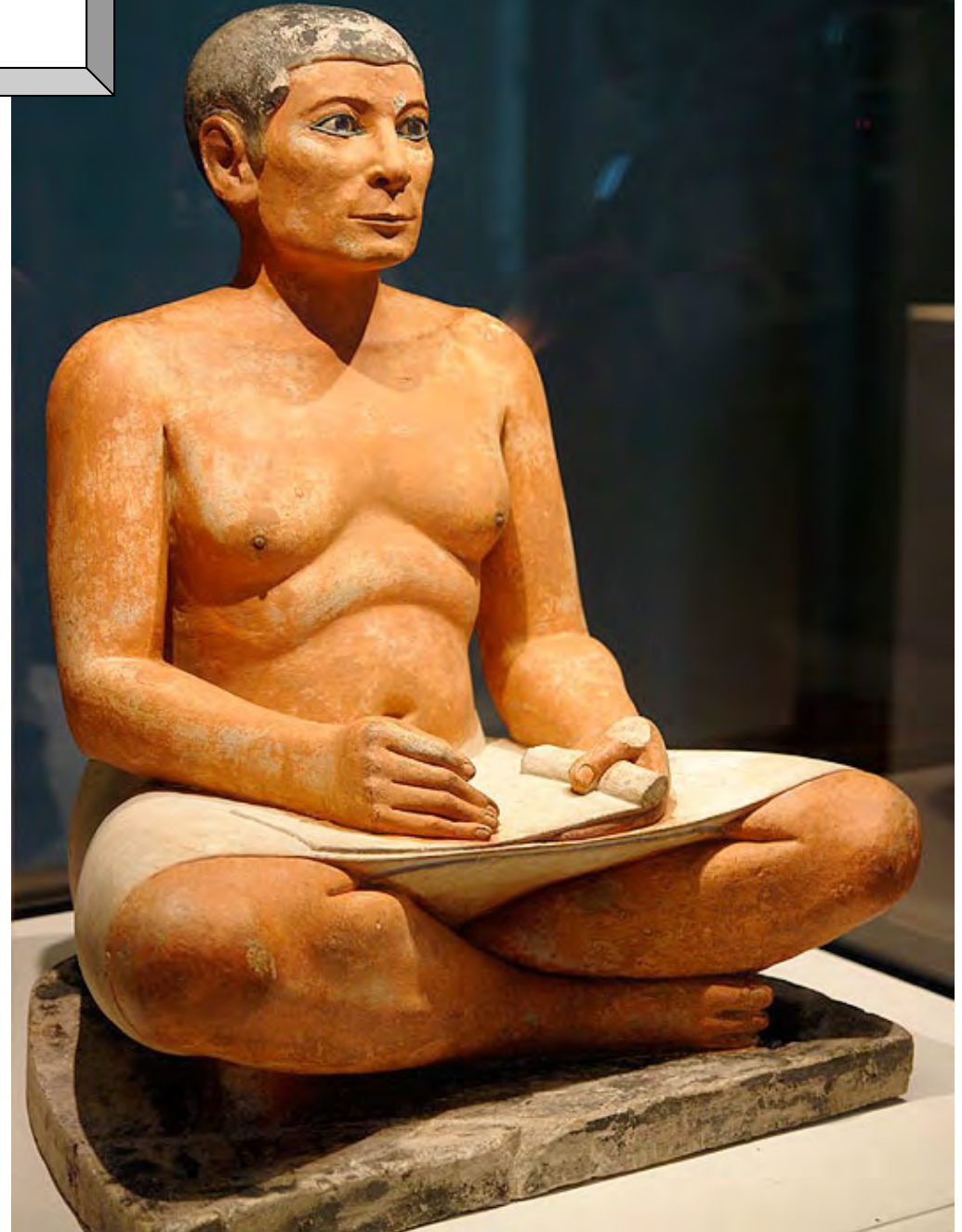


Embalming of Priests



Duties

- **To honour and attend to gods every day**
- **Festivals and feast days ceremonies**
- **Non-religious duties**



Zoroastrianism



Singapore

SOUVENIR COVER



Golden Jubilee of
THE * P A R S I
Z O R O A S T R I A N
A S S O C I A T I O N
SOUTH EAST ASIA * SINGAPORE
1 9 5 4 - 2 0 0 4



3000th Anniversary
of Zoroastrian Culture

■ Atharvans (Fire priests)

■ Magi



Priestly Hierarchy

Initiation



- 1. Acquired occupation and not a hereditary profession.**
- 2. Aspirant (young/old, male/female) could train for the priesthood.**
- 3. Rigorous training required.**

Religious Duties

- **Priestly training began at the age of 7.**
- **Learning to recite the Avesta and other texts of the Yasna Liturgy.**
- **Feeding the Avesta fire in temple perpetually with sandalwood whilst reciting the Avesta from heart.**





Conducting of Ceremonies:

- **Navzote (new initiation ceremony)**
- **Burial**
- **Sacrifices**



NAVJOTE
MUBARRAK

WISHTA TE



WISHTA TE



Laws

- Great focus on purity and cleanliness:**
- **Food, clothes and bathing**
 - **Drinking of "consecrated bull" urine**
 - **No unclean animals**



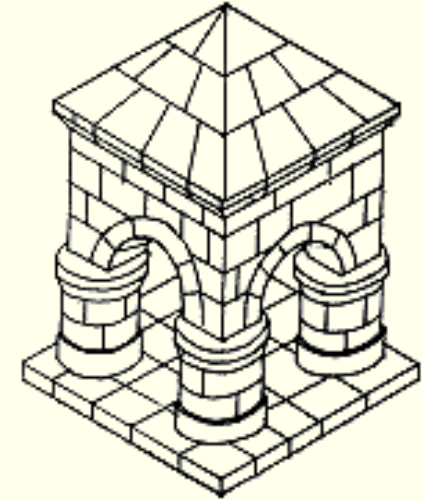
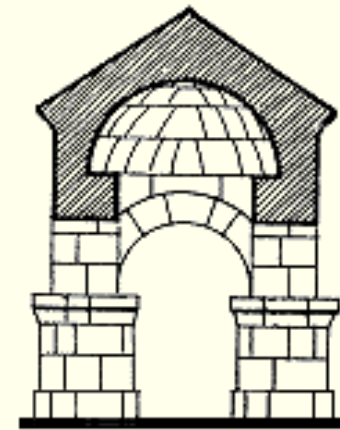
- **Wearing of the white Sudreh to indicate purity**
- **Kusti made of lamb wool to remind us to respect the animal Kingdom**
- **Like a barrier which protects because of spiritual energy in them**
- **Whilst tending the fire, one has to wear a veil to prevent the spittle from polluting the fire.**



- **Marriage is a must due to the high regards of marriage to the religion**
- **Must be kept away from the dead.**



Dwelling



0 5m



The Levitical Priesthood

- Nature
- Requirements
- Uniqueness



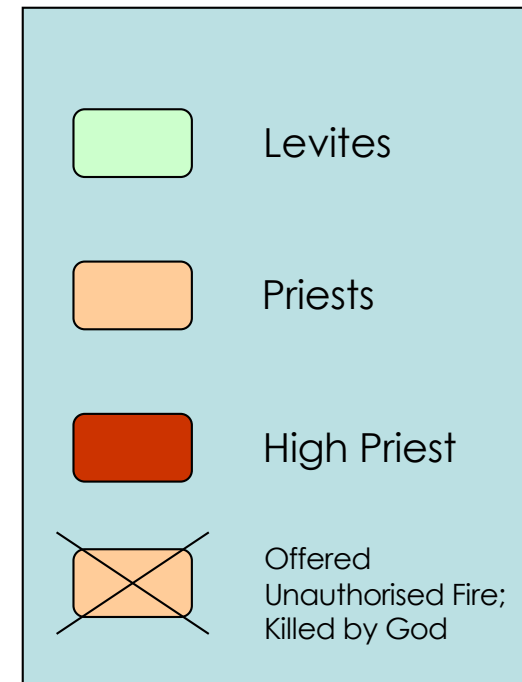
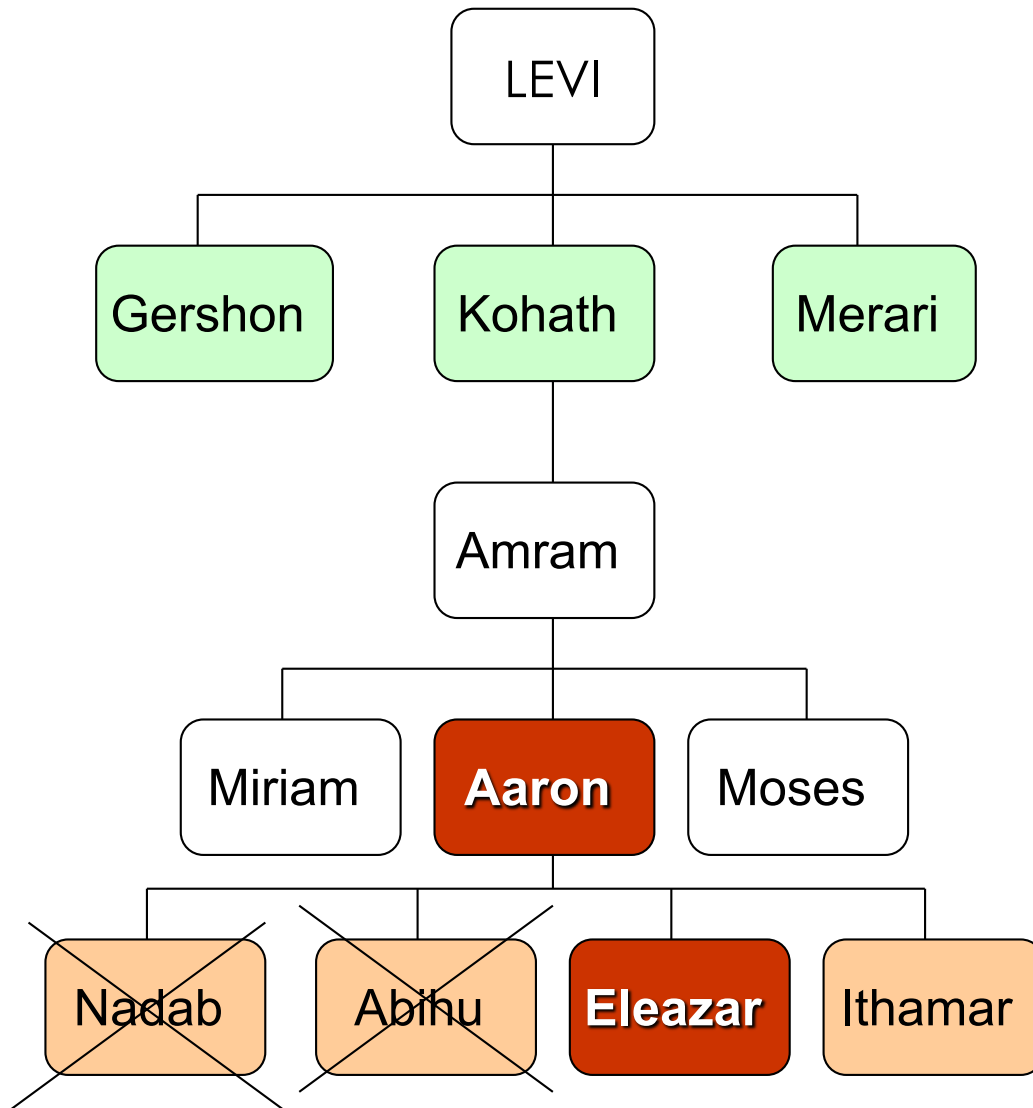
Nature: Who were the Priests?

- Men who represented God to His people



The Priestly Line

166d



Levites

Election

- **Age of Service**
 - **25-50**
 - **After 50 years old:**
semi-retired,
serving limited duties
 - **20-50**
 - **After David established
permanent site for the ark**



Levites

- **Duties**

- Set apart from other Israelites

- Death if tried to serve as priests



Levites

- **Service of the Tabernacle:**

- **Sons of Kohath carry furniture of the tabernacle**



- **Sons of Gershon care for the covering, screen, and hangings**

- **Sons of Merari carry and erect the frame of the court and tabernacle**

Levites

In David's reign:

- Musicians/Singers
- Gatekeepers - ministering in the temple of the LORD
- Treasurers and Other Officials



Priests



- **Introduction/Background**
 - **From days between conquest of Canaan and establishment of Monarchy**
 - **general laxness of worship**
 - e.g., Samuel was an Ephraimite
Micah's priest (Judges 17, 18)

Leviticus 21 Requirements: What Did it Take to Be a Priest?

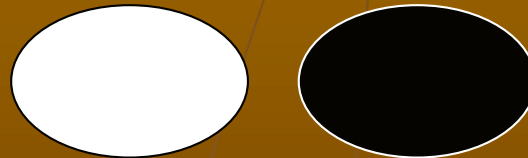
1. Ritually clean (1-4)
2. No shaven heads, beards, or bodies (5)
3. Marriage to a divorcee or former harlot prohibited (7, 14)
4. Not physically disabled (17-21)



Garments of the High Priest



- Turban (gold plate over forehead)
- Tunic (white fine linen shirt)
- Undergarments (linen from waist to thigh)
- Robe (blue with bells & pomegranates)
- Ephod (gold, blue, and purple with onyx stones)
- Sash (belt to hold the garments together)
- Breastpiece
- Urim & Thummin



Exodus 28

The Jewish High Priest

- Atoned for sins of the people on the Day of Atonement
- Type of Christ



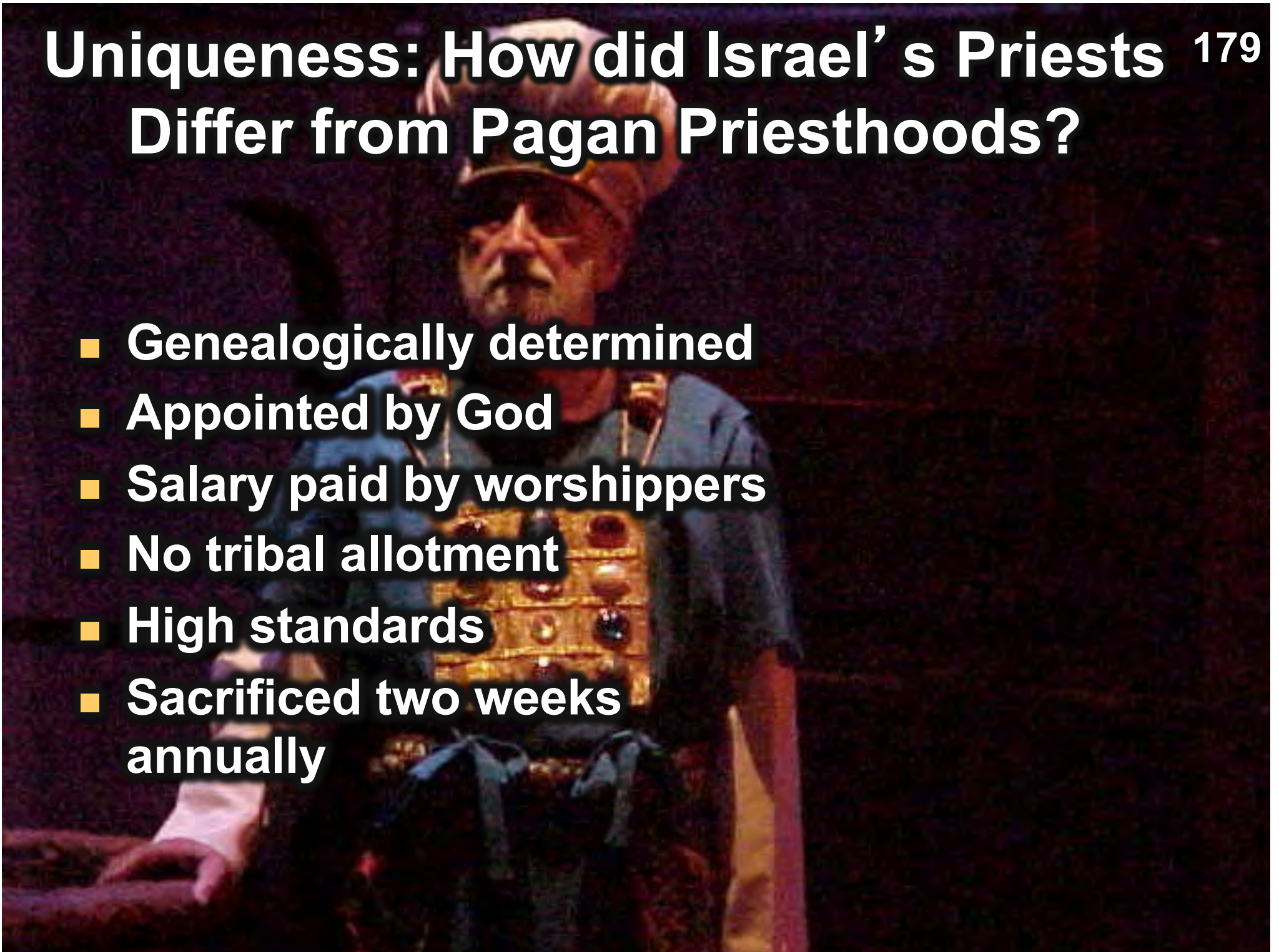
Contrasting Levites and Priests

166d

	Levites	Priests
Descendants of...	Levi	Aaron (also a descendant of Levi)
Population	Many (the larger group)	Few (a subset of the Levites, Josh. 21:4)
Role	Assisted priests and supervised religious activities permitted outside of the sanctuary: teaching, singing, leading worship, officials, administration, judges & gatekeepers	Mediators between God and Israel
Sacrificial Role	Couldn't offer sacrifices nor incense (Num. 16:2-7, 38)	Offered sacrifices and incense (Deut. 33:10b)
Location of Homes	Extensive—in 35 cities throughout the tribes in the central, northern, and eastern parts of Israel (Josh. 21:5-7)	Limited to 13 cities in Judah, Simeon, & Benjamin that were near the temple (Josh. 21:4, 9-13)

Uniqueness: How did Israel's Priests ¹⁷⁹ Differ from Pagan Priesthoods?

- Genealogically determined
- Appointed by God
- Salary paid by worshippers
- No tribal allotment
- High standards
- Sacrificed two weeks annually



Uniqueness: How did Israel's Priests ¹⁷⁹ Differ from Pagan Priesthoods?

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- No tribal allotment
- High standards
- Sacrifices annually

**The point:
Israel's priesthood did not
follow the patterns of the
pagan nations**

Priests

- **Introduction/Background**
 - **In Numbers**
 - Known as "the sons of Aaron"
 - **In Deuteronomy**
 - Known as "the priests, who are the Levites" (NIV) or "the priest the Levites" (KJV).
 - In view that different portions are ascribed to the priests and Levites
 - Priests and Levites were still distinct
 - **In Joshua**
 - Distinction between the priests and Levites is clearly maintained



Priests



- **Introduction/Background**
 - **In Numbers**
 - Known as "the sons of Aaron"

– **In Deuteronomy**

Male descendants of Levi & Aaron

of the
priests and

– **Priests and Levites were still distinct**

– **In Joshua**

- **Distinction between the priests and Levites is clearly maintained**

Priests

- **Ordination of Aaron and sons**
 - whole process took seven days
 - Aaron and his sons were not to leave the sanctuary
 - Includes preparation, anointing the priests and offering of sacrifices

[HTTP://THEBIBLEREVIVAL.COM](http://THEBIBLEREVIVAL.COM)



"Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock."—Gen. viii. 14

Priests

- **Priests' Responsibilities**
 - To maintain ceremonial cleanliness
 - To teach God's law to the Israelites



Priests

- **Duties in addition to care of sanctuary:**
 - function as judges in difficult decisions
 - regulate the control of lepers
 - guard the book of law
 - assist Moses with the ceremony of covenant renewal



Priests

- receive restitution for wrong if the victim has no next of kin
- conduct test for an unfaithful wife
- teach God's law to Israelites

In Joshua's time, the priests carried the ark of the Lord.



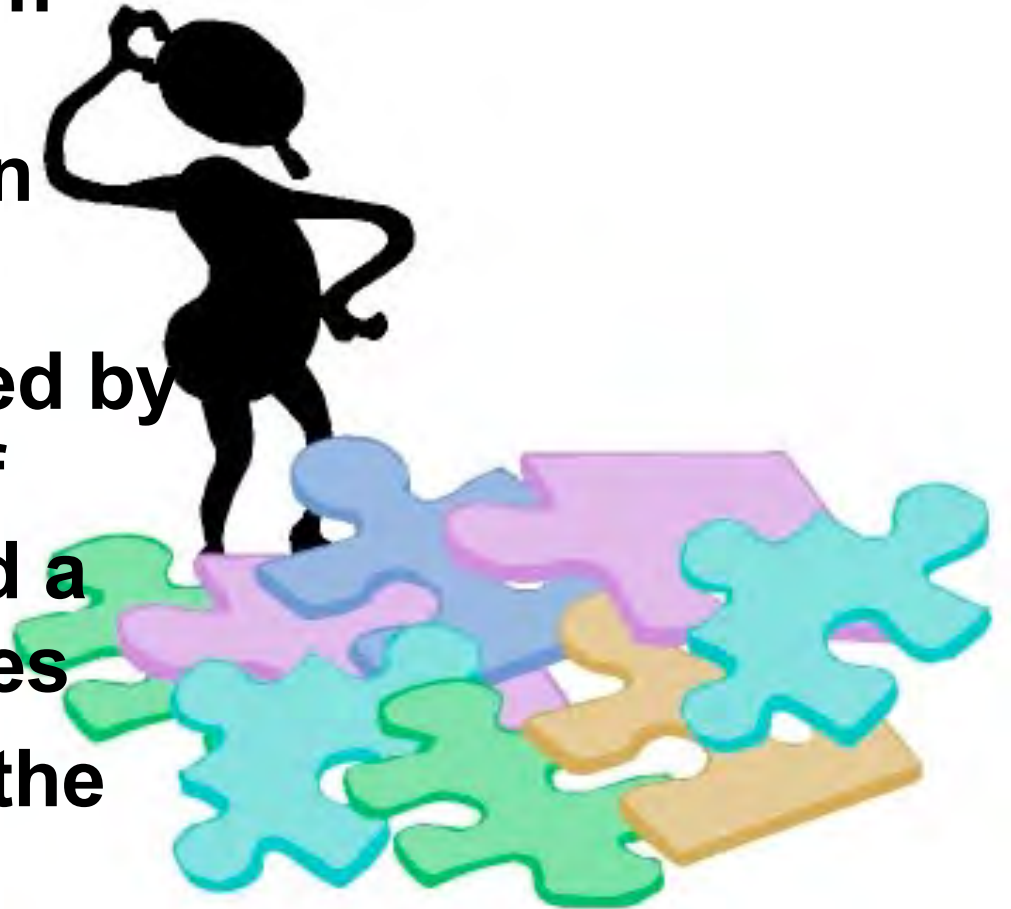
Priests

- **Consecration rules:**
 - **Must be holy because they present the offering made to the LORD**
 - **Must not shave their heads or edges of their beards or cut their bodies**
 - **Must not marry divorcees or prostitutes**
 - **Must be without any defects**
 - **Must refrain from alcohol before duty in the sanctuary**



Priests

- **Privileges**
 - had no land inheritance but had 13 towns from the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin
 - received parts of the offering not consumed by sacrifice, firstlings of flocks and herds, and a tenth of Levitical tithes
 - sometimes received the spoil of battles



Priests

- **Ordination:**
 - anointing oil poured on his head
 - wore priestly garments
- **Rules:**
 - must not uncover his head or tear clothes
 - the woman he marries
 - must be a virgin of his own people
 - must not be a widow or divorced or defiled by prostitution
- **Duties:**
 - routine duties like other priests
 - on the Day of Atonement
 - Represented people of Israel, sprinkling the blood of sacrificial goat on the mercy seat



Aaron

Eleazar

Eldest Rep.

The Priesthood of Jesus Christ



Election

- 1) Appointed by God yet is God (Heb. 5:5)
- 2) Appointed by God's oath (Heb. 7:21)



Duties

- 1) **Atoned for sin to reconcile man and God**
- 2) **Intercedes for God's people (Heb. 7:25)**



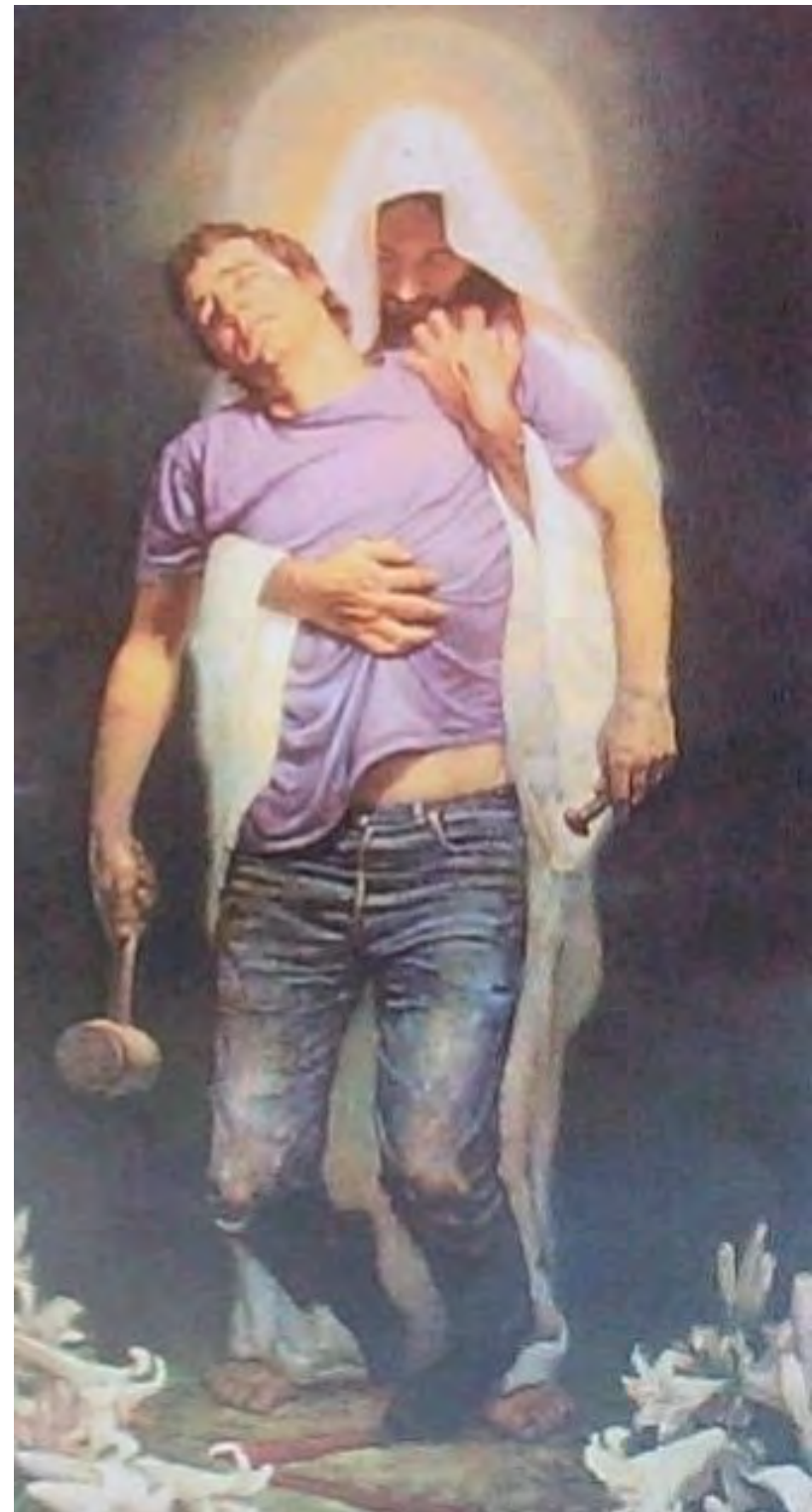
	Aaronic priests	Jesus Christ
Heredity	Must descend from Aaron from the tribe of Levi	Descendant of Judah
Priestly order	Aaron	Melchizedek
Appointed	by God without oath	by God on oath
Personality	Sinful man	Sinless Son of Man
Tenure	Life	Eternity
Duties	Offered animal sacrifices for atonement of sins	Offered himself for atonement of sins
Place of service	Itinerant tabernacle or temple in Jerusalem	Outside Jerusalem
Efficacy of sacrifice	Annual offering	Once for all
Effect of service	Obtained forgiveness for the sins of the Jews annually	Obtained forgiveness for the sins of the world forever Opened access for all believers to God
Current work	None	Intercession for believers at the right hand of God

The Priesthood of believers



Our Election

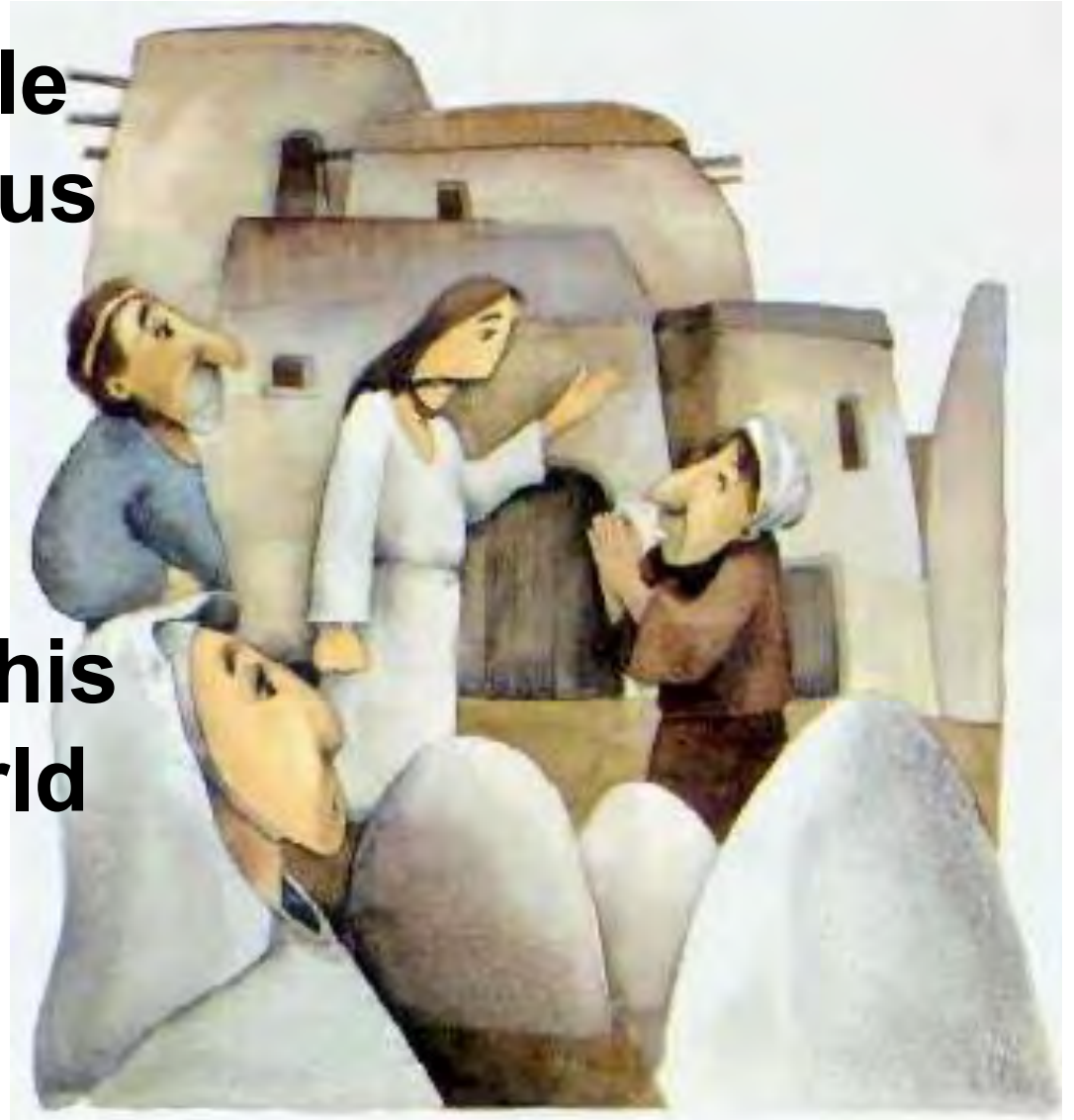
- 1) Heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of his purpose (Heb. 6:17)
- 2) Royal Priesthood and chosen (1 Pet. 2:9)



Our Duties

1) To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2:5)

2) To declare God's wonderful deeds (1 Pet. 2:9) and share his salvation to the world (Matt. 28:19-20).



Our Laws



1) Inward purification of the believer by indwelling of Holy Spirit.

2) Outward purification of the believer by Spirit-led living.

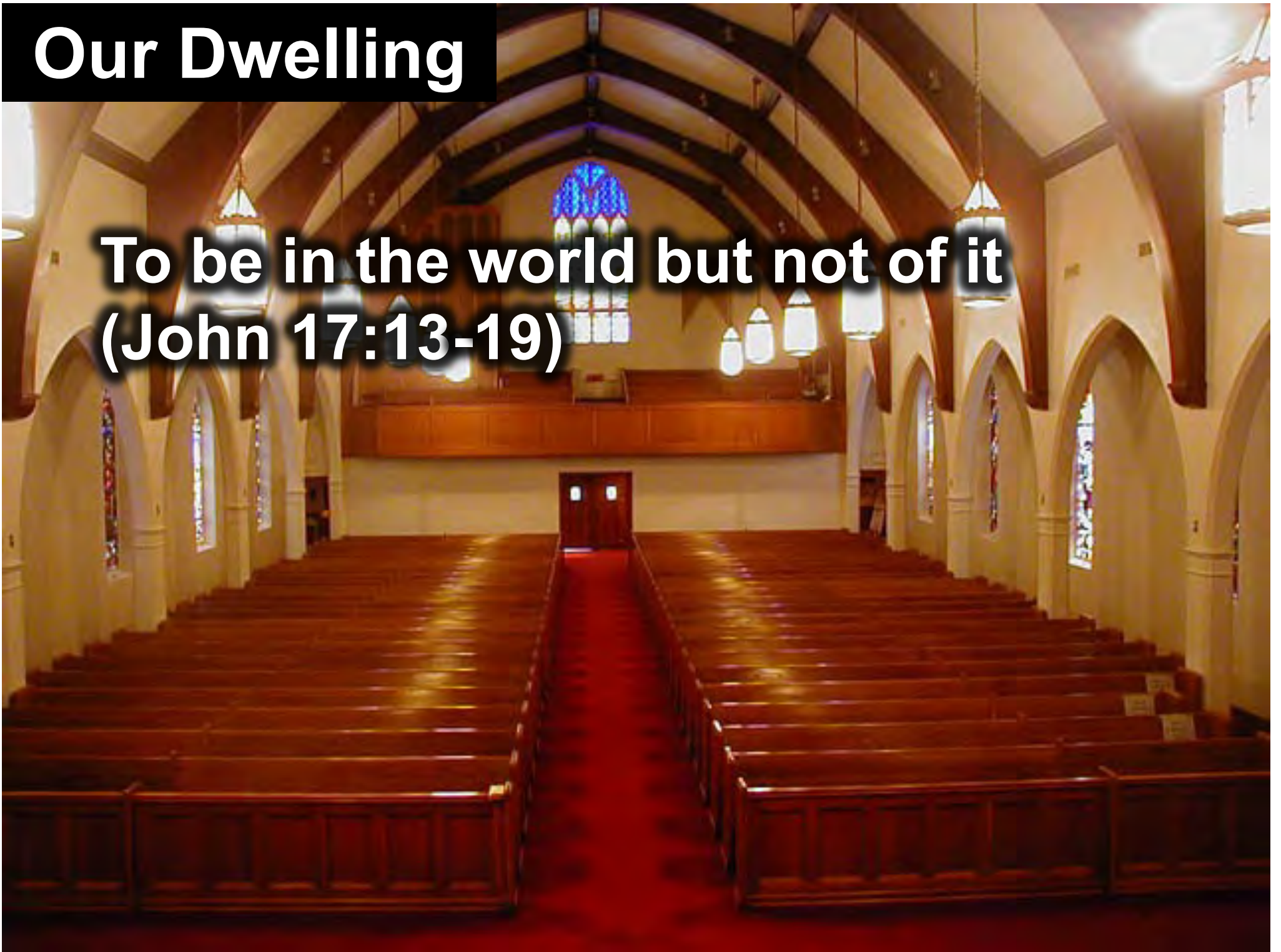
The believer is exhorted to:

(a) Live for righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24)

(b) Live for holiness (1 Pet. 1:14-16)

Our Dwelling

**To be in the world but not of it
(John 17:13-19)**



Conclusion

- 1. Christians, male and female, are called believer priests today.**
- 2. The NT priesthood functions are simpler than those of pagan and OT priesthoods.**

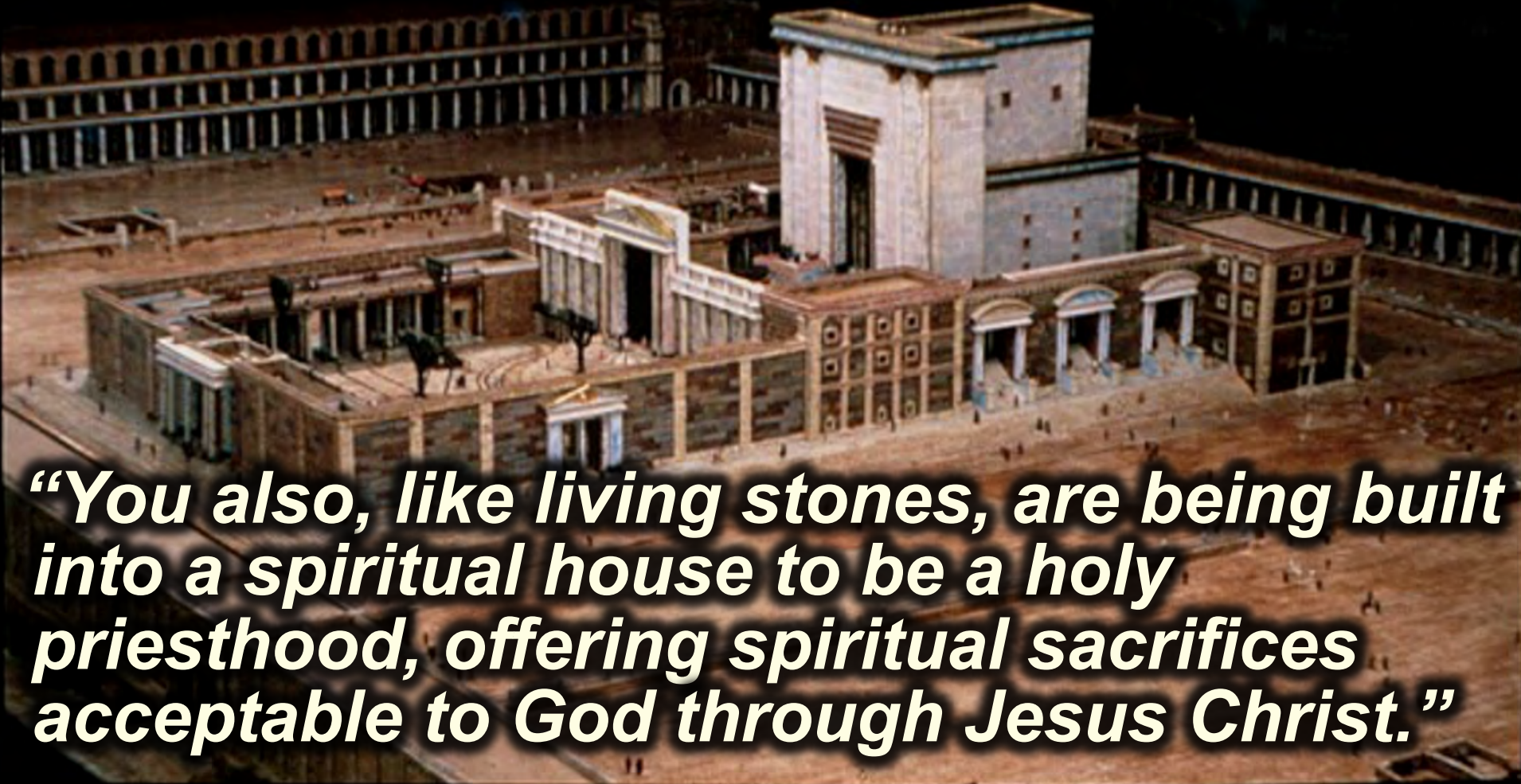
Essentials of the NT priesthood:

- a) No need for human mediator between man and God
- b) Direct and personal relationship with God
- c) Serve one supreme God, not a pantheon of gods
- d) Moral standing from a moral God who justifies
- e) No need for animal sacrifices to atone for sins; sacrifices are praise and prayer and godly living
- f) A priesthood that celebrates life as a sacrifice, not death
- g) The duty and privilege to keep in step with the Spirit



Christ's yoke was heavy, but the yoke he gives to us is easy and the burden light. May we in our busy schedules and lifestyles find rest even as we serve God in our lives.

1 Peter 2:5 (NIV)



“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Two Questions:

1. Who has the ultimate say in the church?
2. What is the biblical pattern for church leadership?



International
Baptist Church Singapore

Sharing the Love of God

I. Ultimate authority in the local church rests with the congregation



Congregational Authority

- In Church Discipline (Matt. 18:17)

“Take it to the church...”

- In Leader Selection (Acts 6:3)

“Choose... from among you...”

- In Maintaining True Doctrine:

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you...” (1 Cor. 11:23)

“Friends... test the spirits” (1 John 4:1)

“Contend for the faith” (Jude 3)

Episcopal Church Structure (Simplified)



Bishop

Vicar

Vicar

Vicar

Deacons

Deacons

Deacons

People

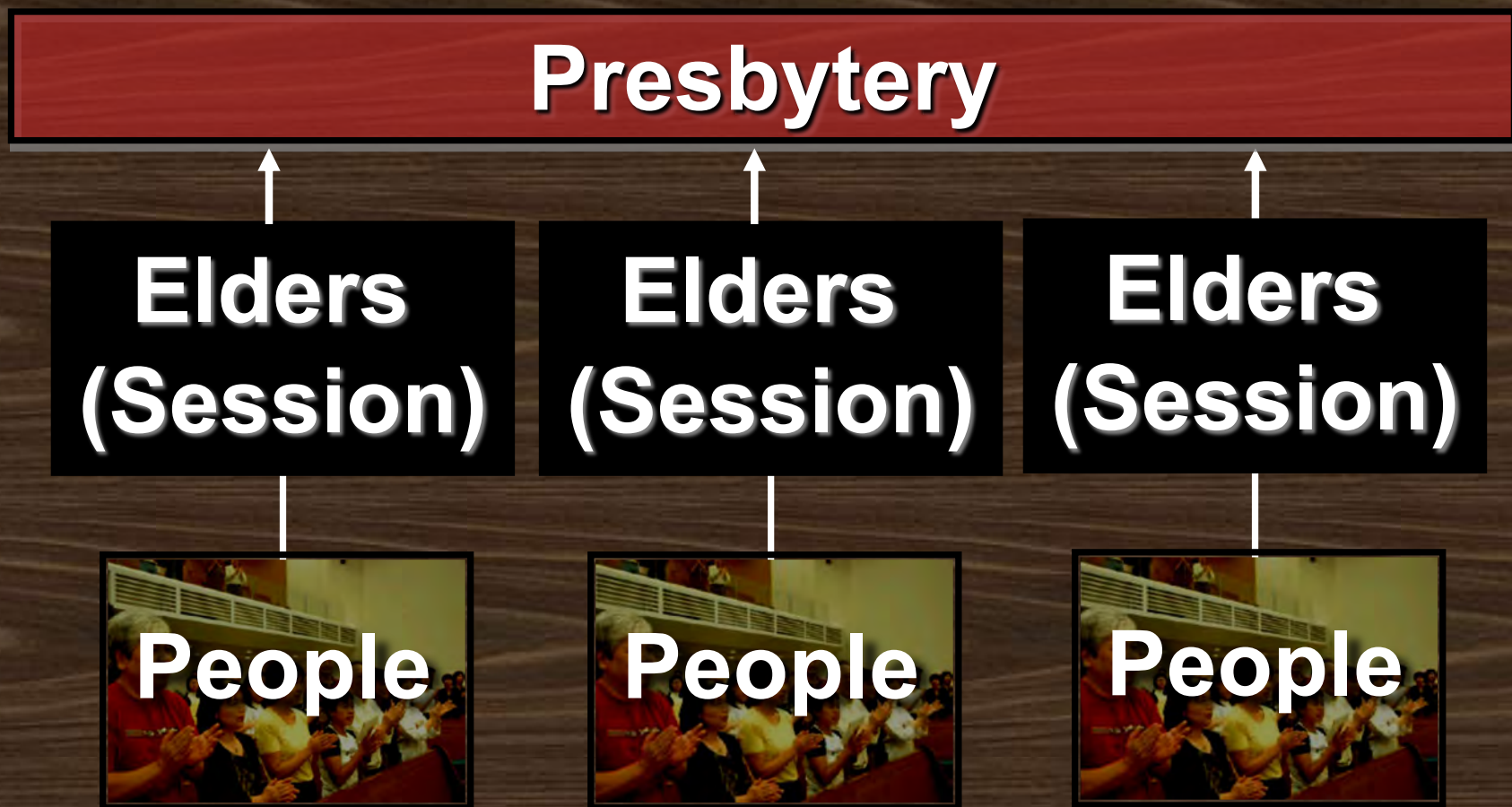
People

People

Anglican
Lutheran
Methodist
Orthodox
Catholic



Lower Presbyterian Structure



Middle Presbyterian Structure

Synod

Presbytery

Presbytery

**Elders
(Session)**

**Elders
(Session)**

**Elders
(Session)**

**Elders
(Session)**

**Elders
(Session)**

**Elders
(Session)**

People

People

People

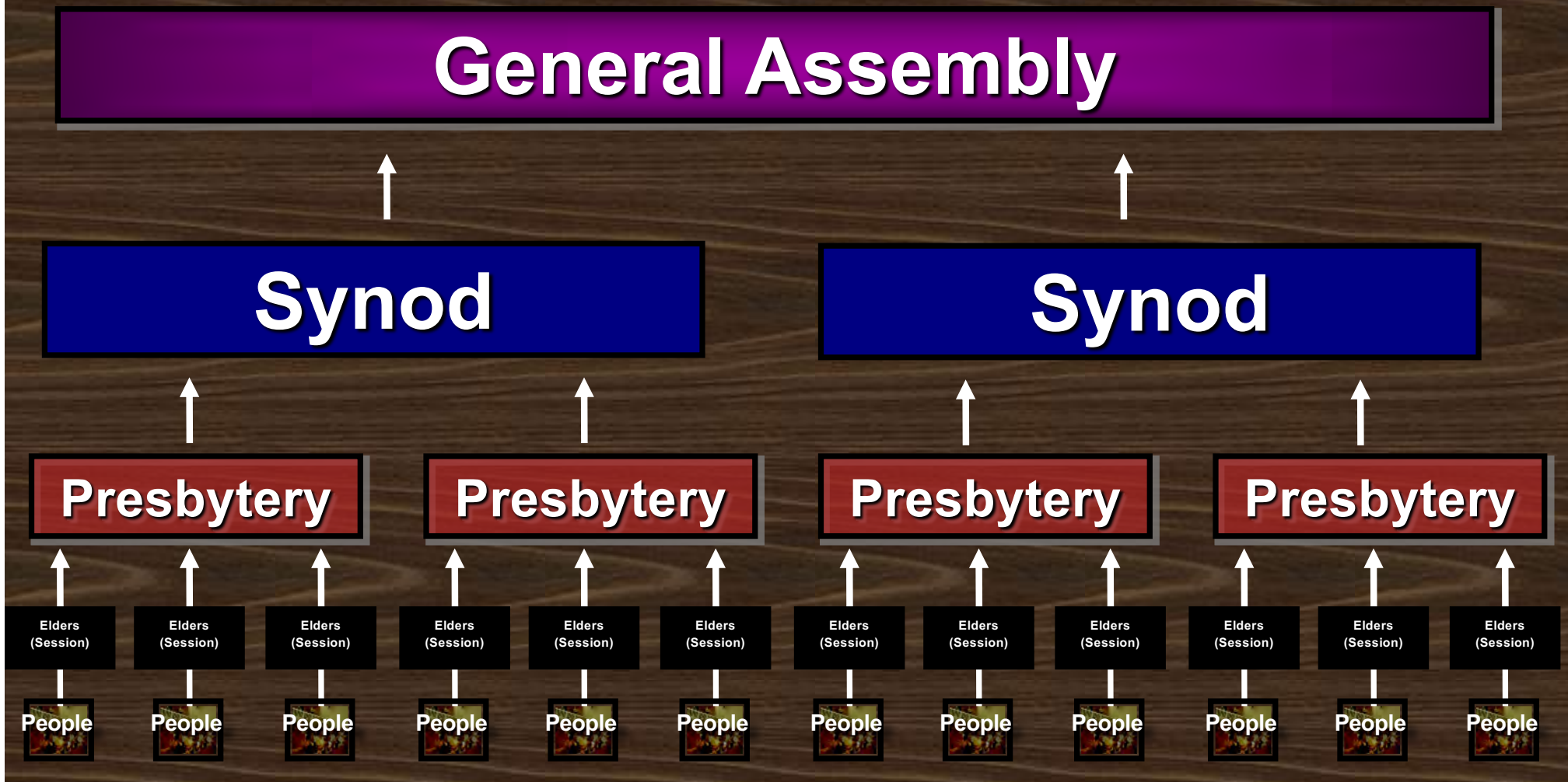
People

People

People



Highest Presbyterian Structure



What About Baptists?



The Autonomy of
the Local Church

Two Questions:

1. Who has the ultimate say in the church?
2. What is the biblical pattern for church leadership?



International
Baptist Church Singapore

Sharing the Love of God

II. The biblical pattern is church leadership by elders.



Scriptural support for a plurality of elders: plurality plurality

Not One Elder...



But Many...

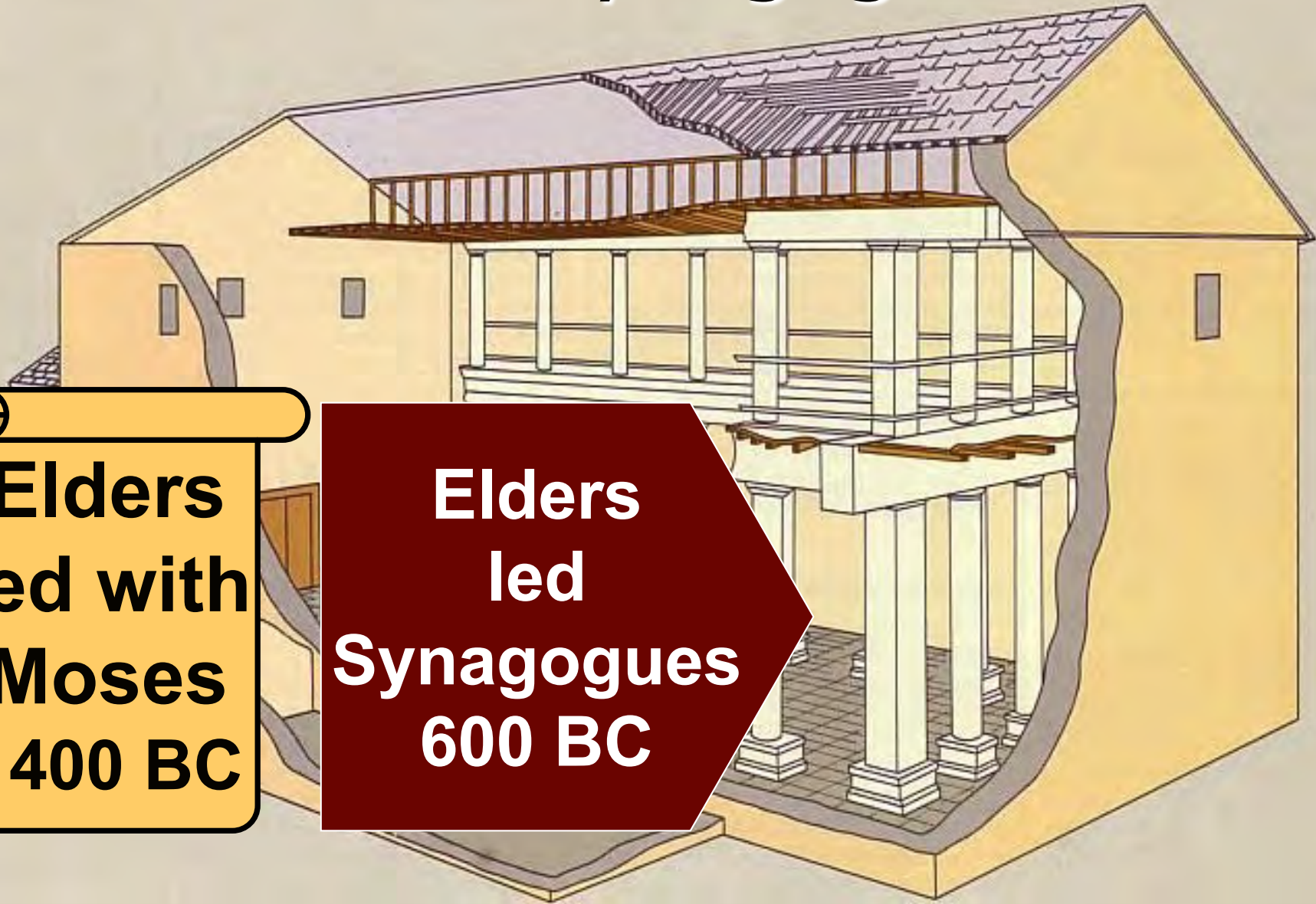


Elders led from the time of Moses

**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

**“Go, assemble the
elders of Israel and
say to them...” (Exod.
3:16)**

Who Led the Synagogue?



**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

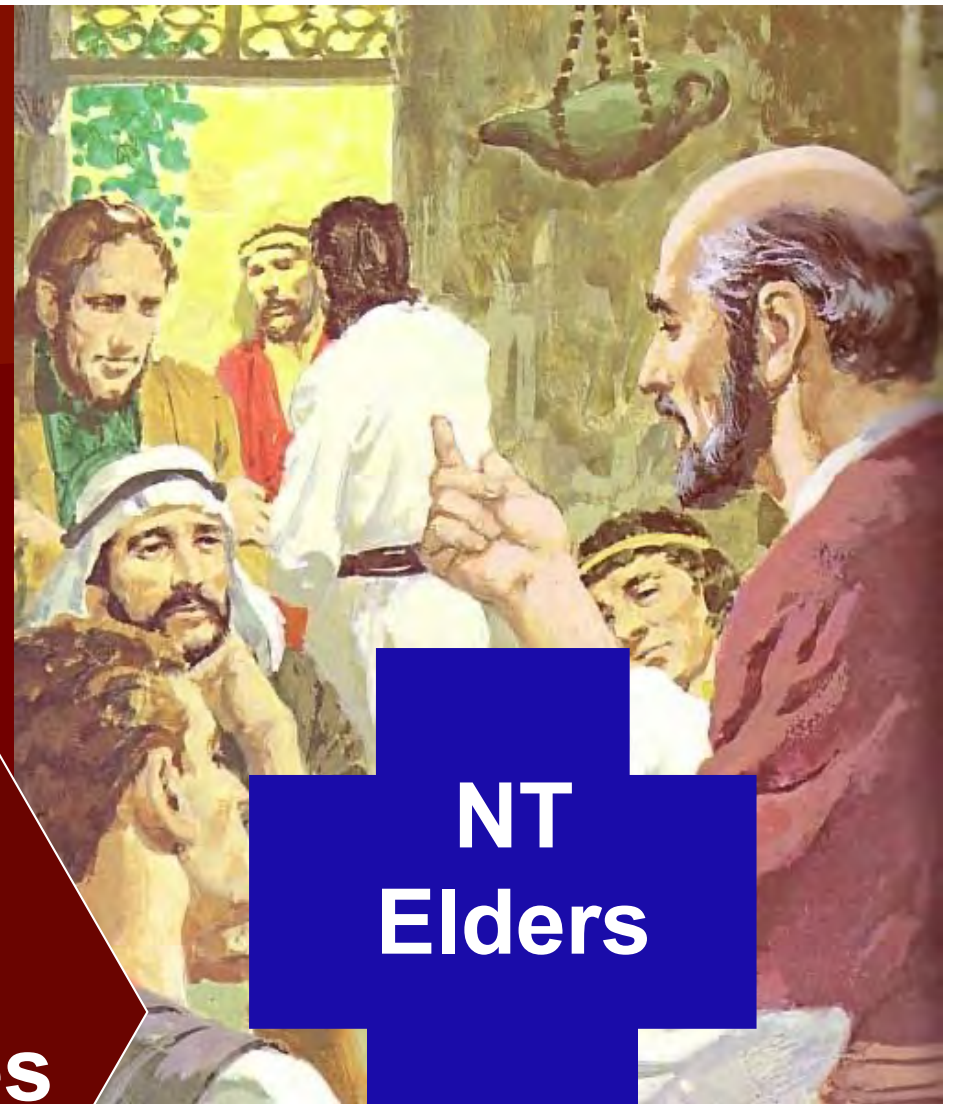
**Elders
led
Synagogues
600 BC**

God has advocated group leadership through the ages

**Elders
led with
Moses
1400 BC**

**Elders
led
Synagogues
600 BC**

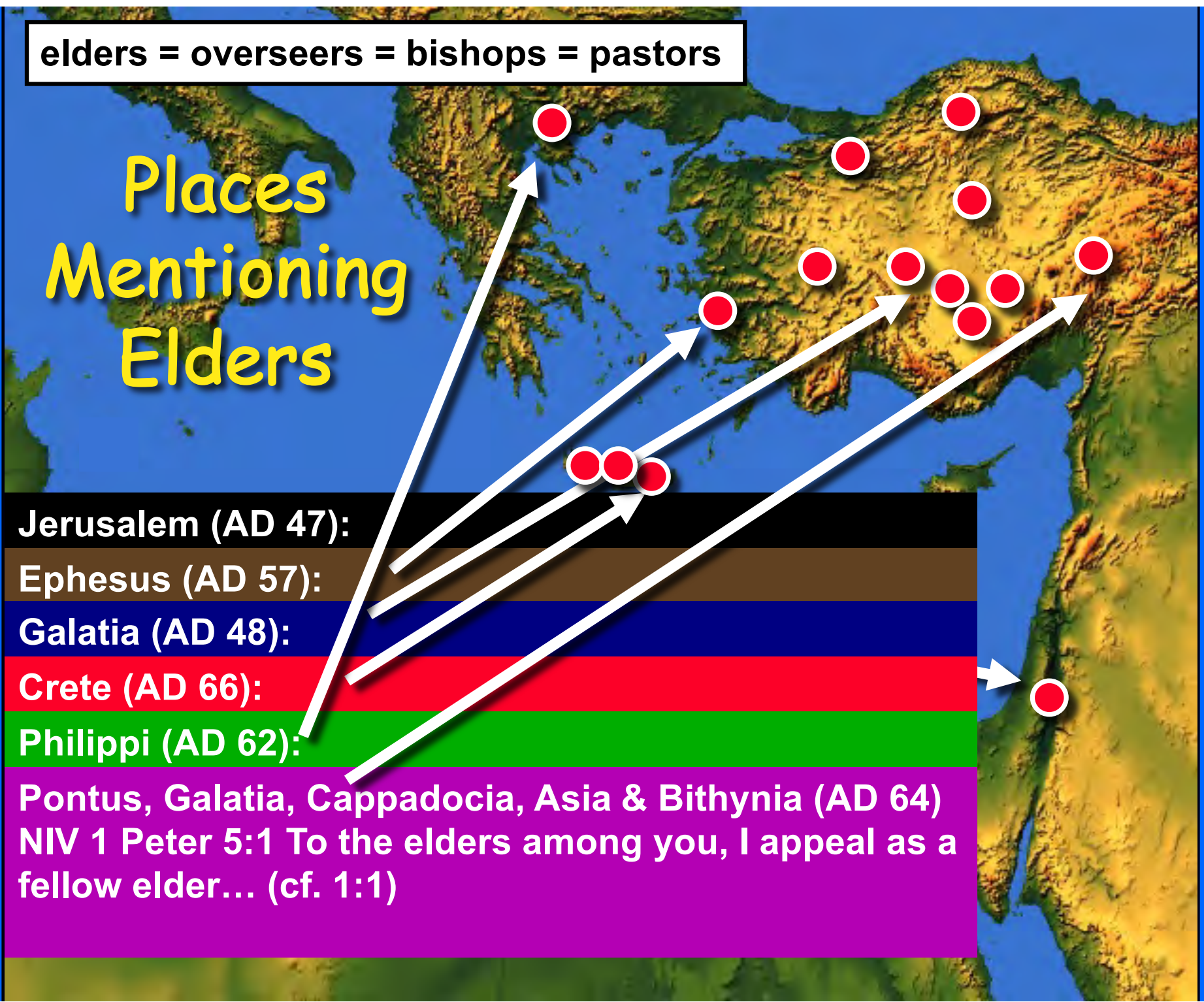
**NT
Elders**



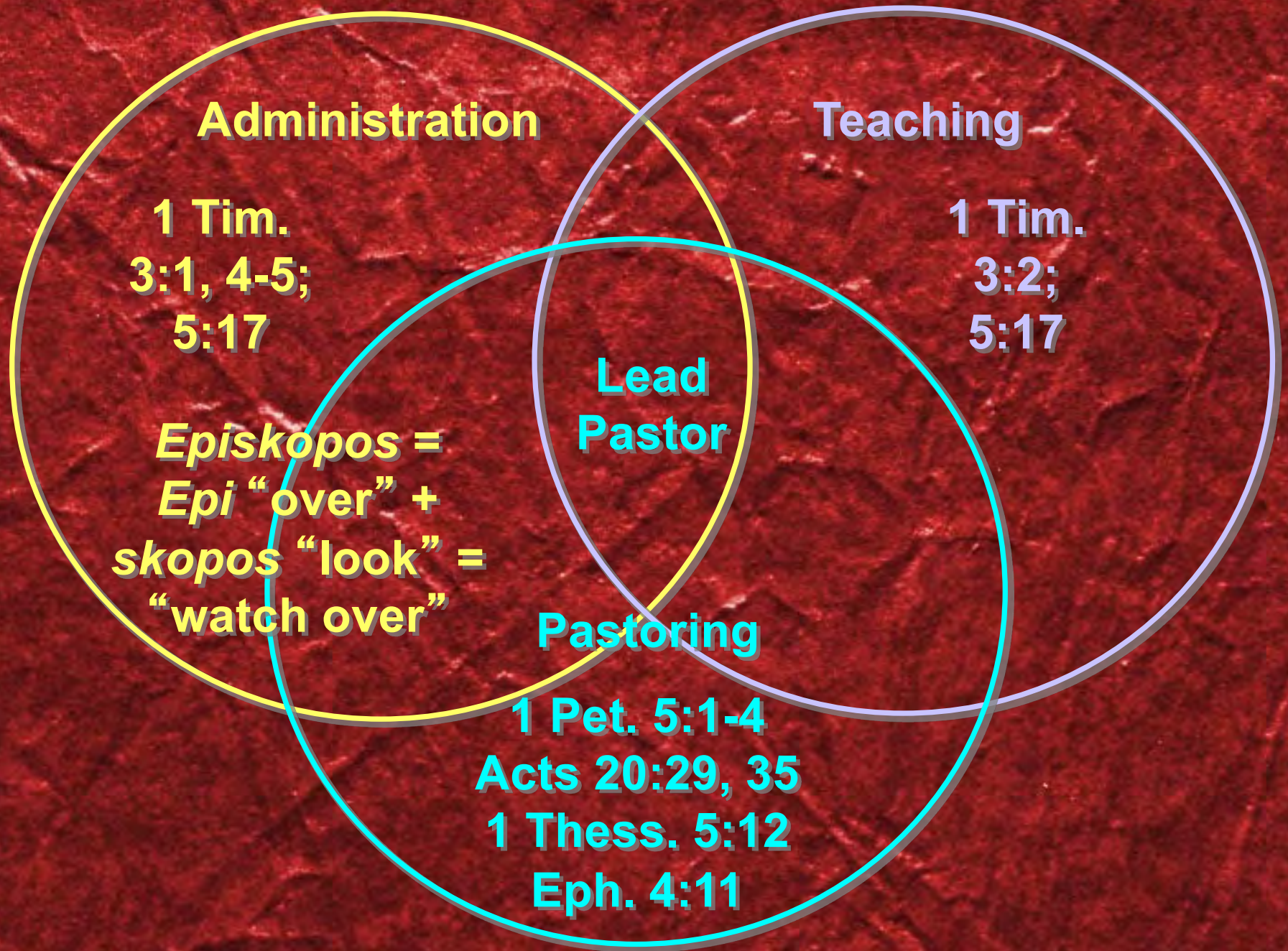
elders = overseers = bishops = pastors

Places Mentioning Elders

- Jerusalem (AD 47):
- Ephesus (AD 57):
- Galatia (AD 48):
- Crete (AD 66):
- Philippi (AD 62):
- Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia (AD 64)
NIV 1 Peter 5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder... (cf. 1:1)



Three Major Tasks of Elders



How Elders Relate to Deacons

Model 1: Senior Pastor over Deacons



How Elders Relate to Deacons

Model 2: Senior Pastor alongside Deacons



How Elders Relate to Deacons

Model 3: Deacons lead elders/pastors



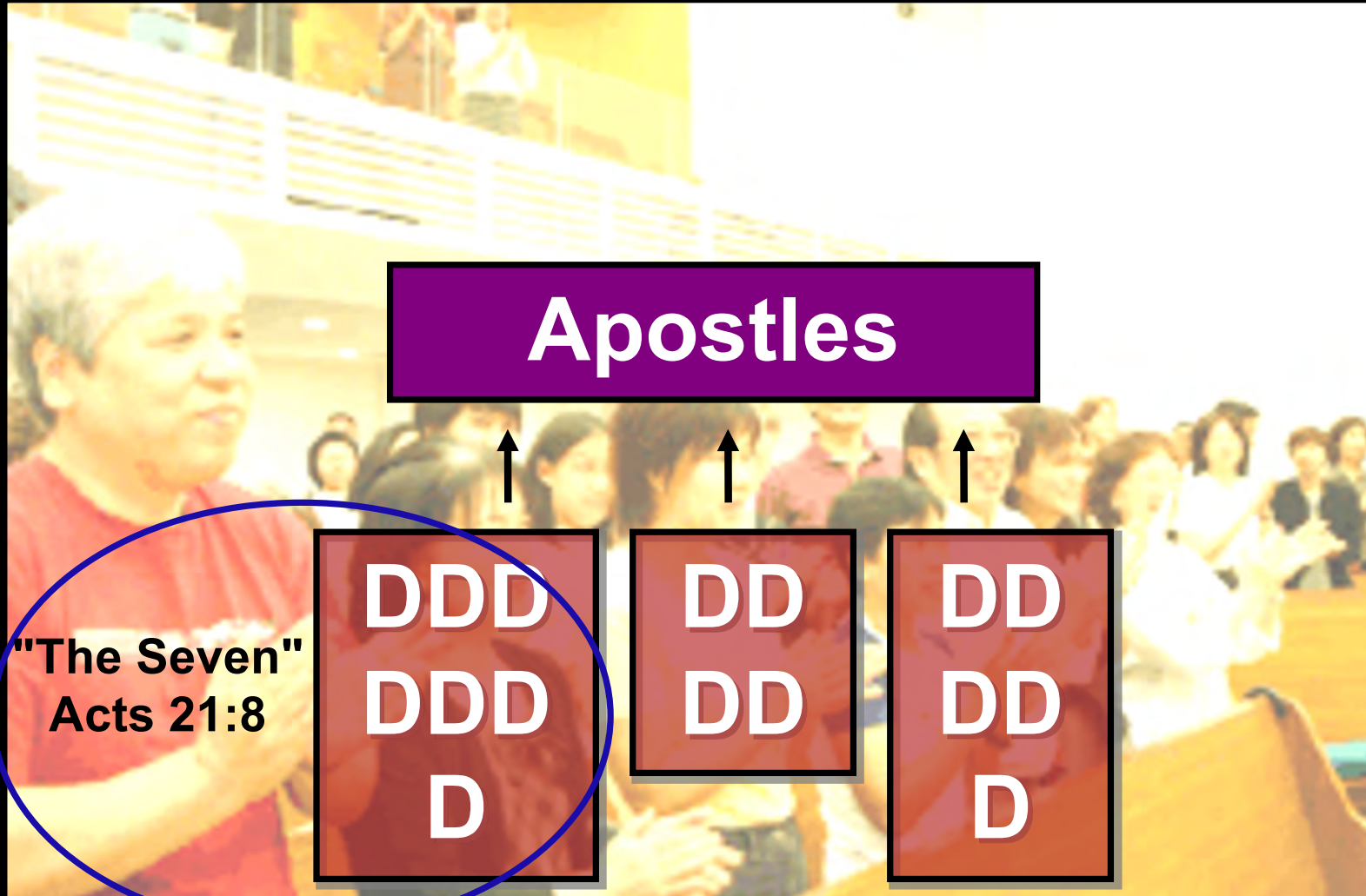
How Elders Relate to Deacons

Model 4: Elder Board leads Deacon Board



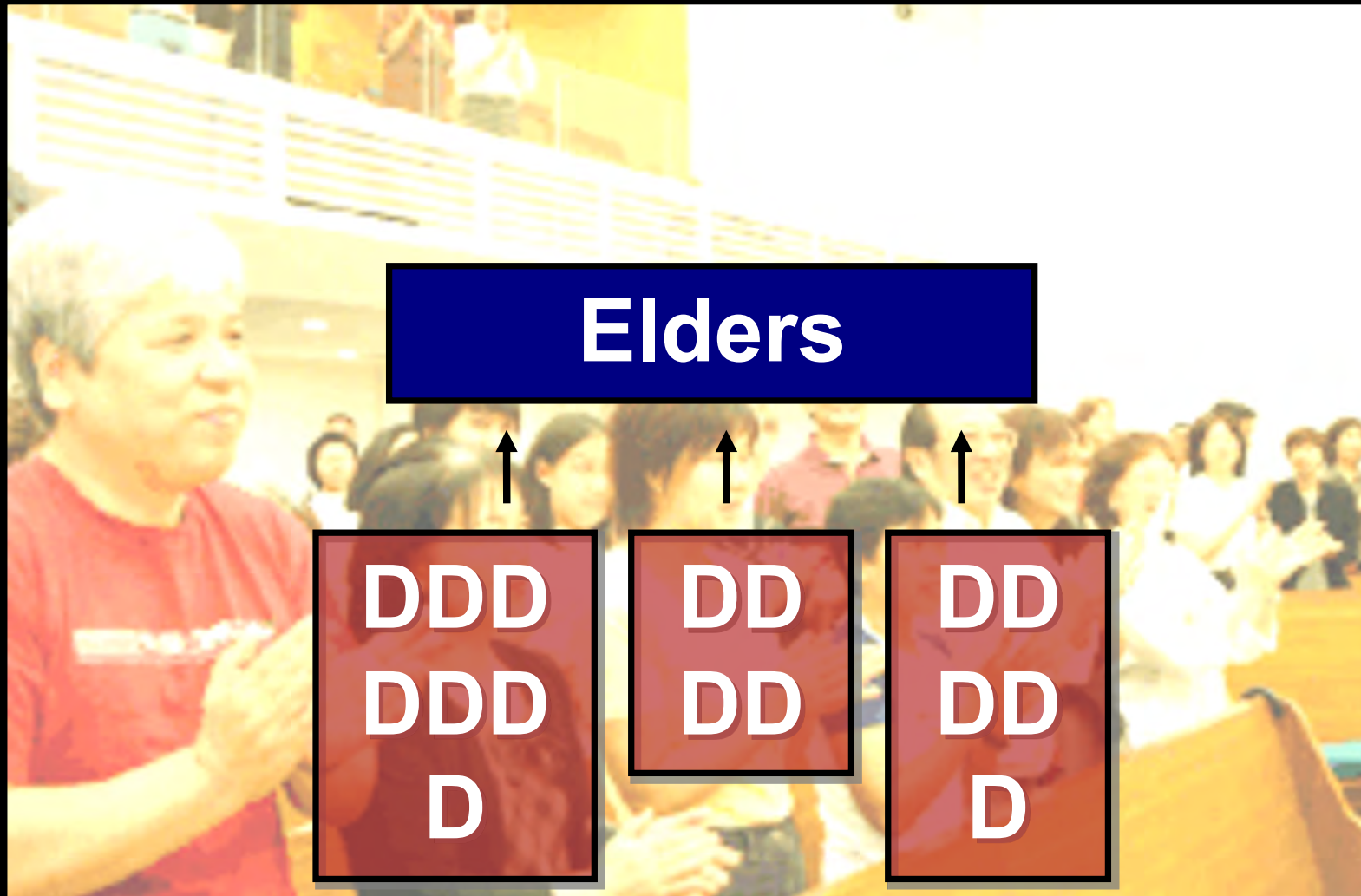
How Elders Relate to Deacons

Apostles over "The Seven"

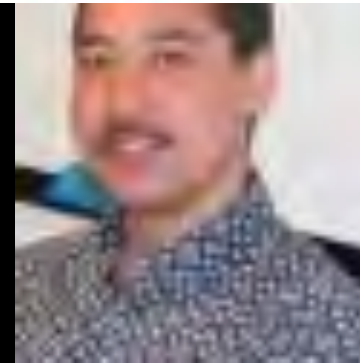


How Elders Relate to Deacons

Model 5: Elders with Deacon Committees



Can't we just call current
deacons "elders"?



No. There are many differences between them...



Qualifications

Character

Character + Teaching

Role (Gifting)

Administration

Pastoral

Time Involved

Much

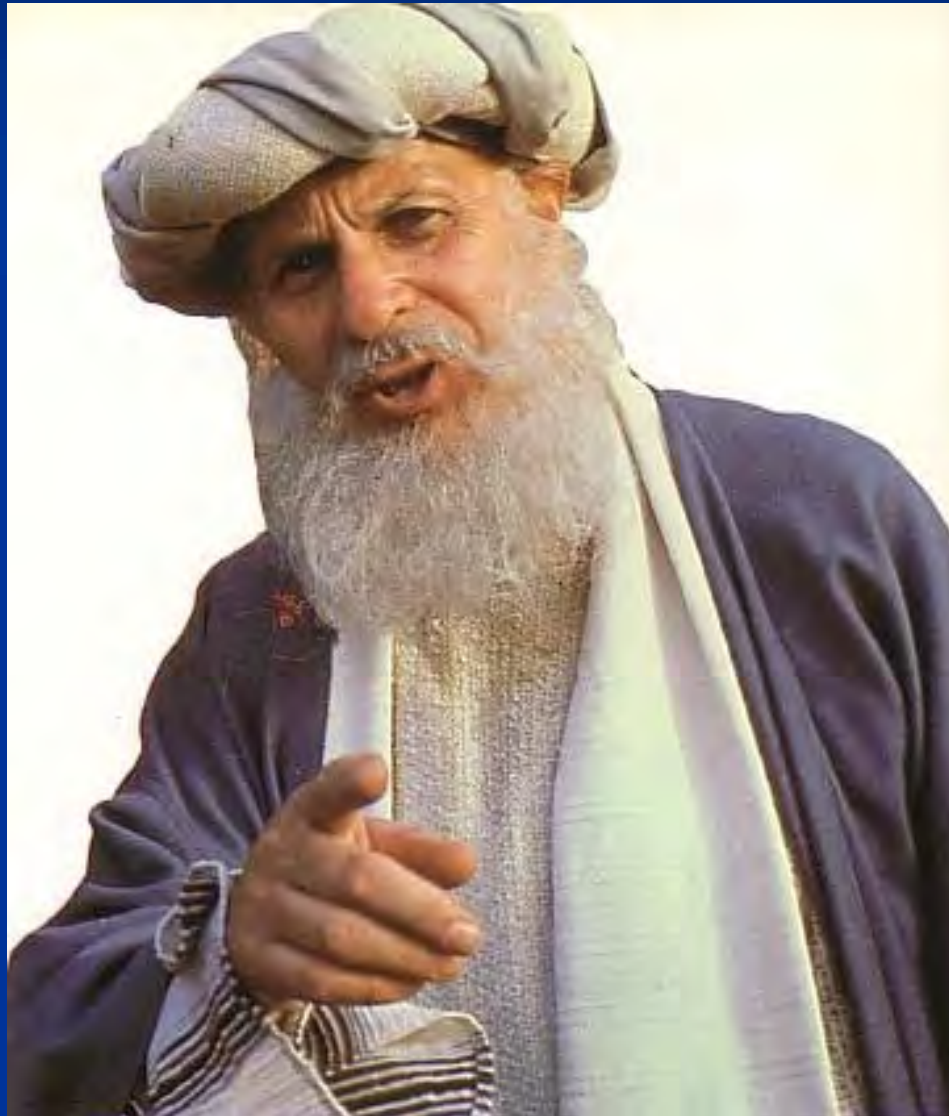
Even more extensive

Age

Younger

Older

OK, lah... But...



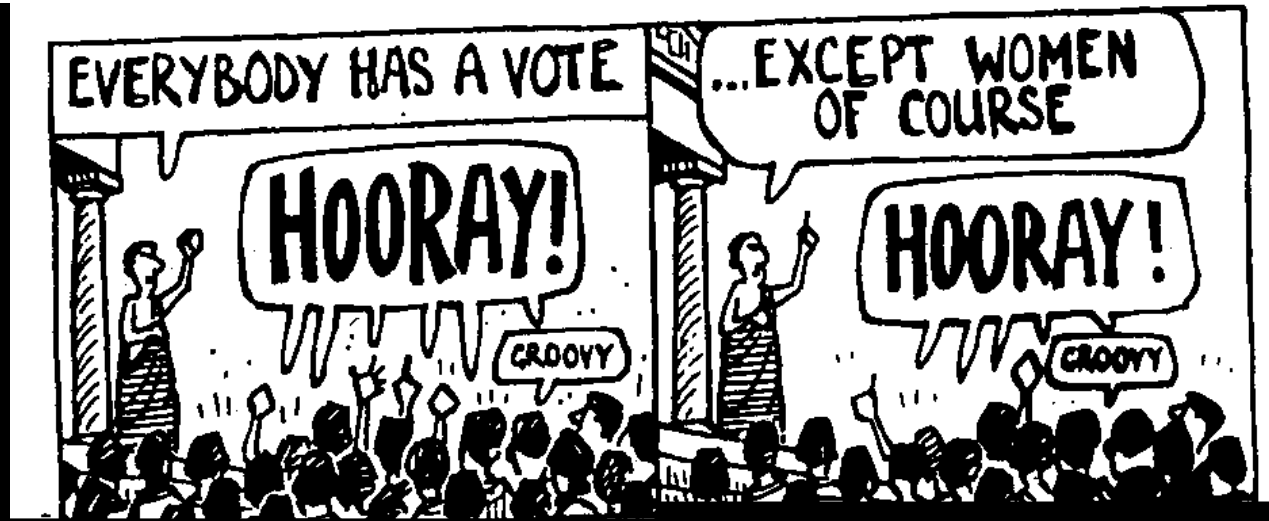
**Leadership by elders and
congregational authority are not
contradictory**

Balancing
leadership with
congregational
involvement

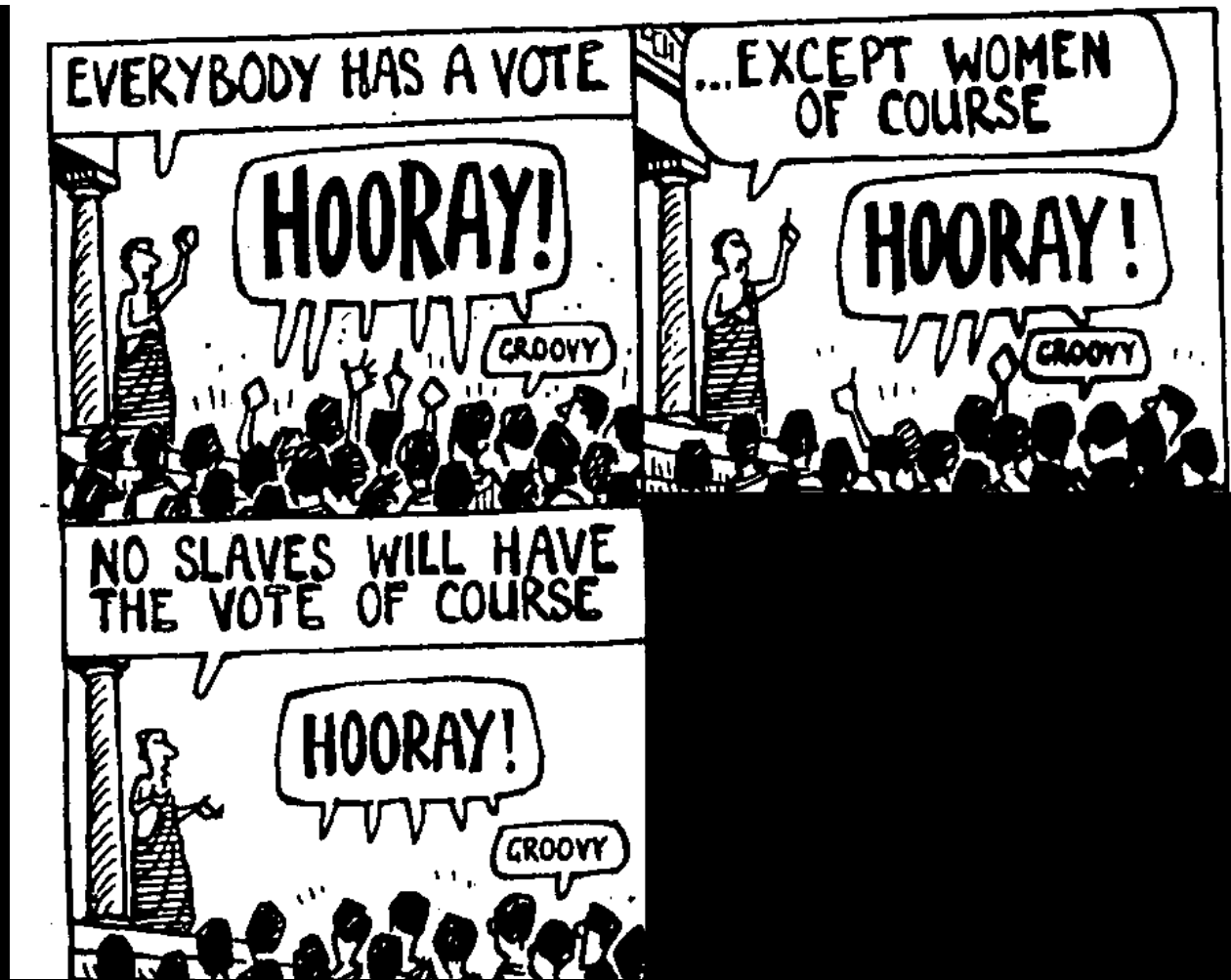
Balancing leadership with congregational involvement



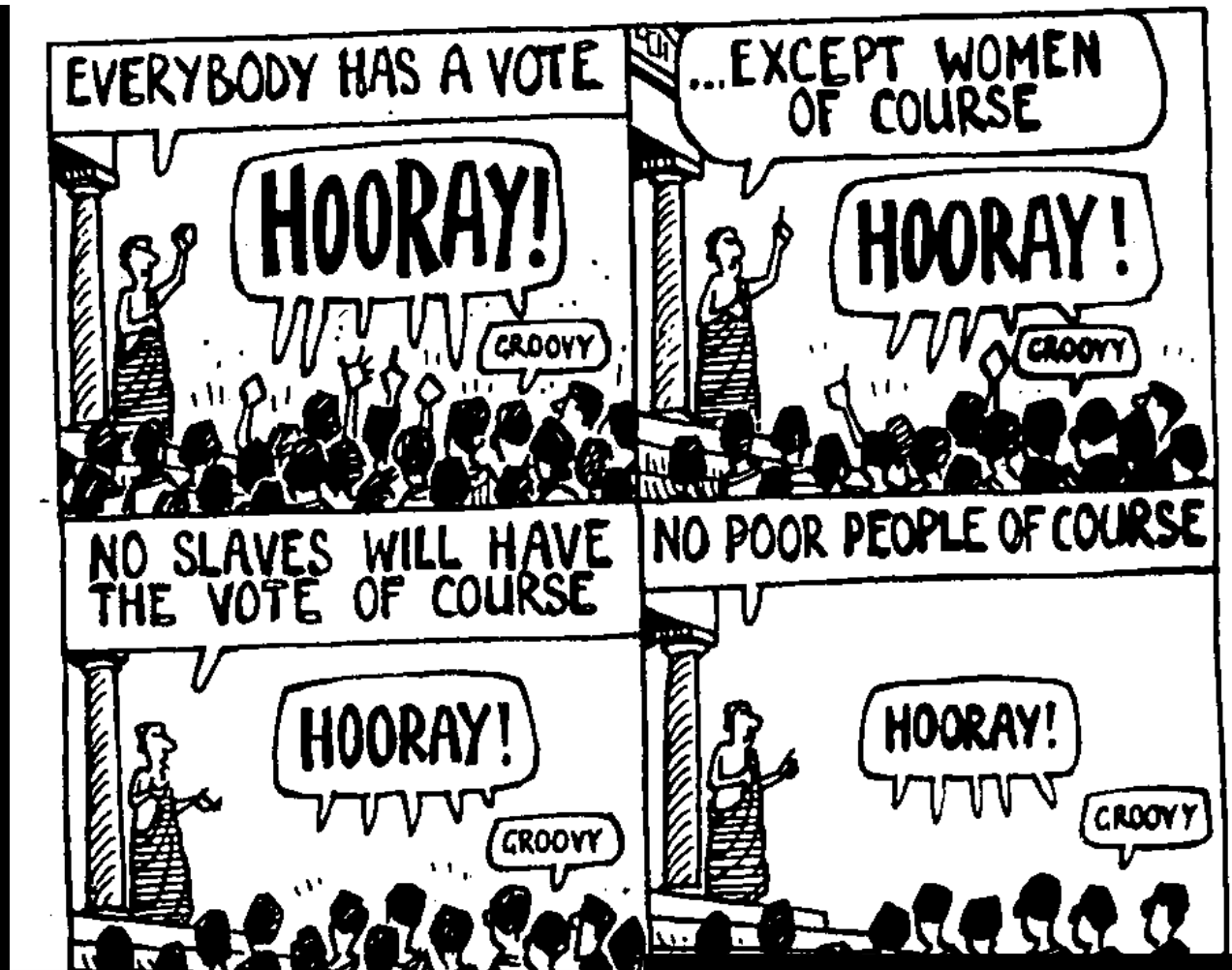
Balancing leadership with congregational involvement



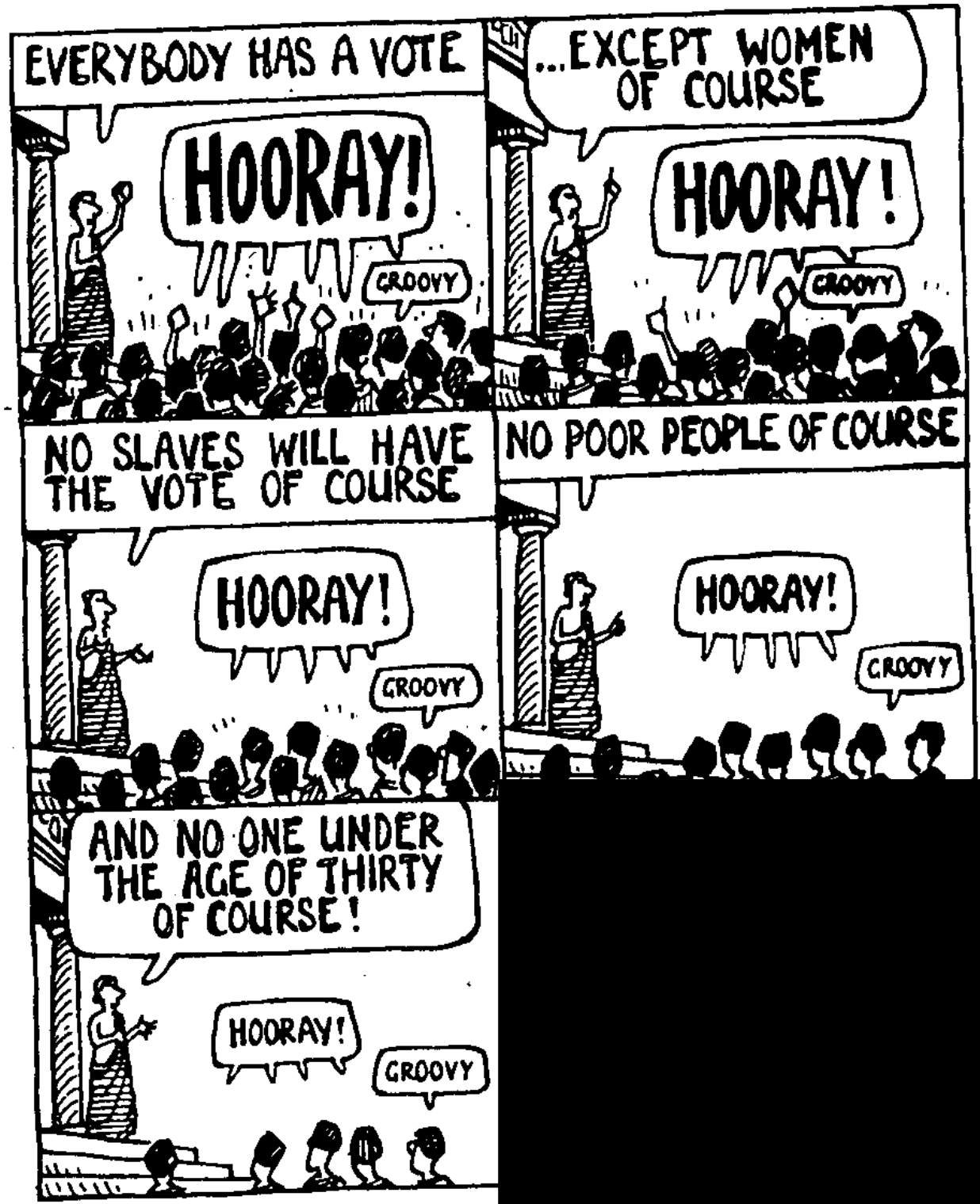
Balancing leadership with congregational involvement



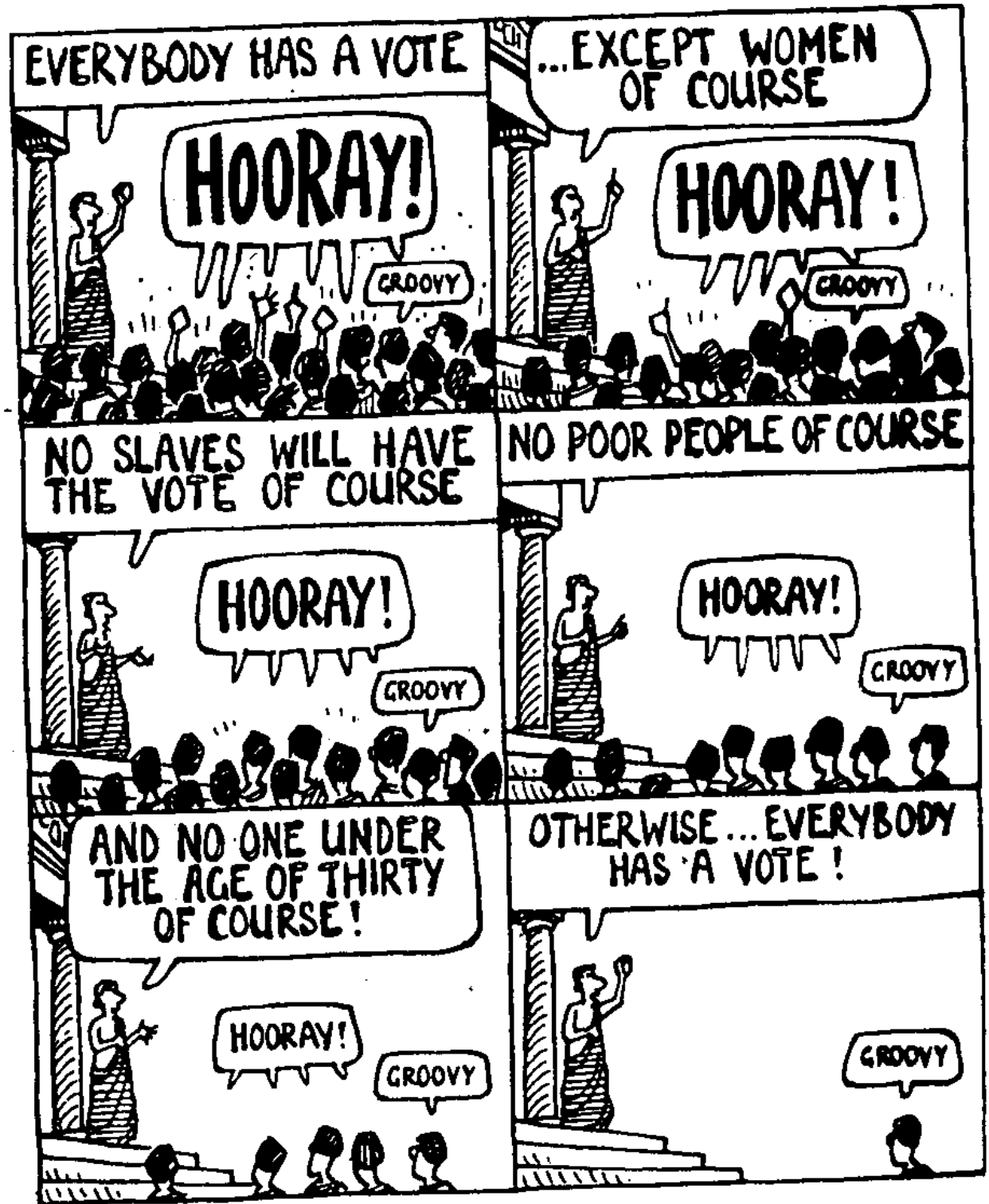
Balancing leadership with congregational involvement



Balancing leadership with congregational involvement



Balancing leadership with congregational involvement





—Main Idea—

Ultimate authority in the local church rests with the congregation but these people should be led by elders



So what?

Action Points:

⊕ Congregational Authority means...

⊕ This is *my* church...

⊕ So what is *your* unique role in your church?

⊕ Elder Leadership means...

⊕ I must have realistic expectations of who will pastor me...

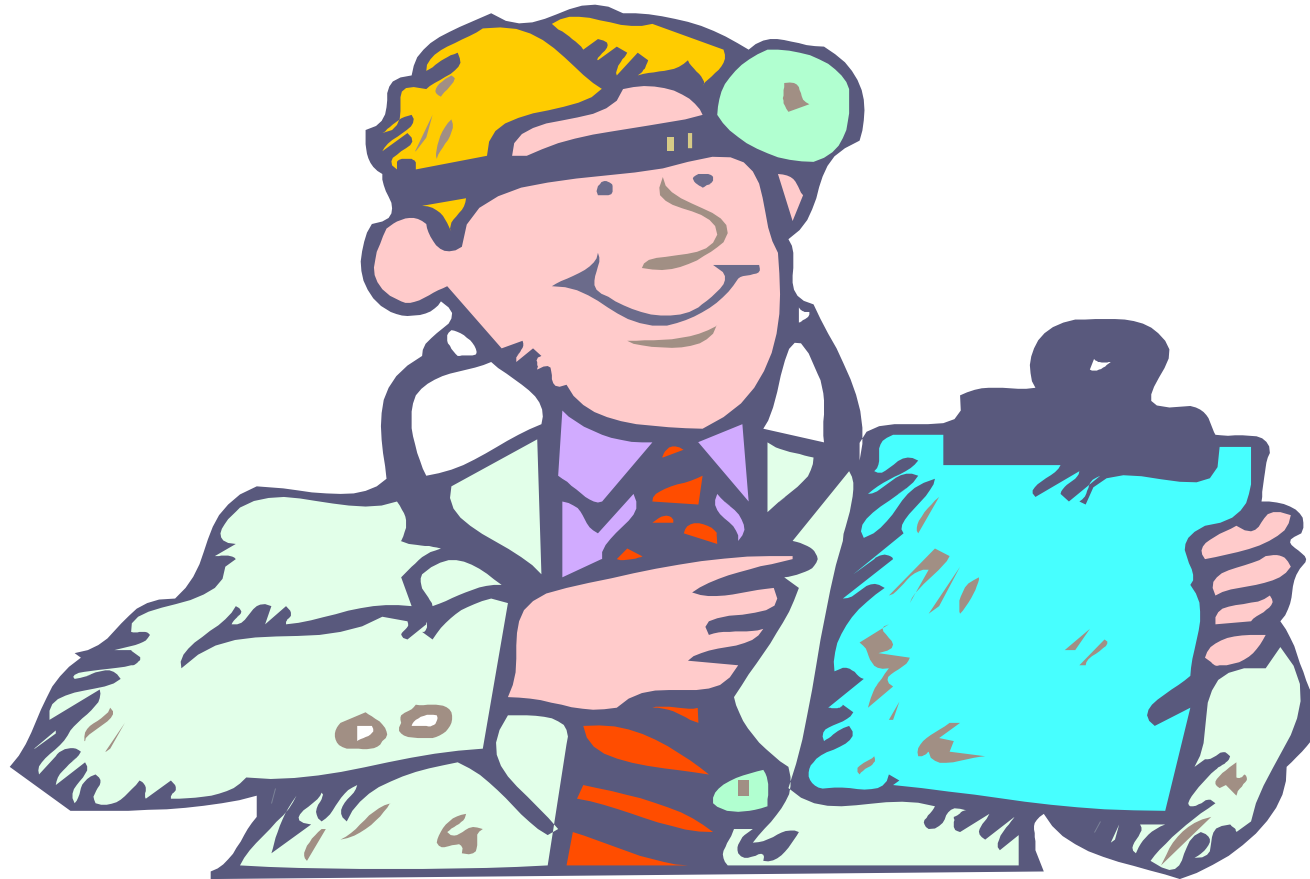
⊕ My greatest need is for a shepherd--not an organizer

WHAT ABOUT LEADERS TODAY?



A GOOD MAN FOR A TOUGH JOB

GOD'S DEACON CHECKLIST: 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13



1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

OVERVIEW

**Elder
Qualifications
1-7**

**Deacon
Qualifications
8-13**

**Deacons 8-10
Wives 11
Deacons 12-13**



WORTHY OF RESPECT

1 Timothy 3:8



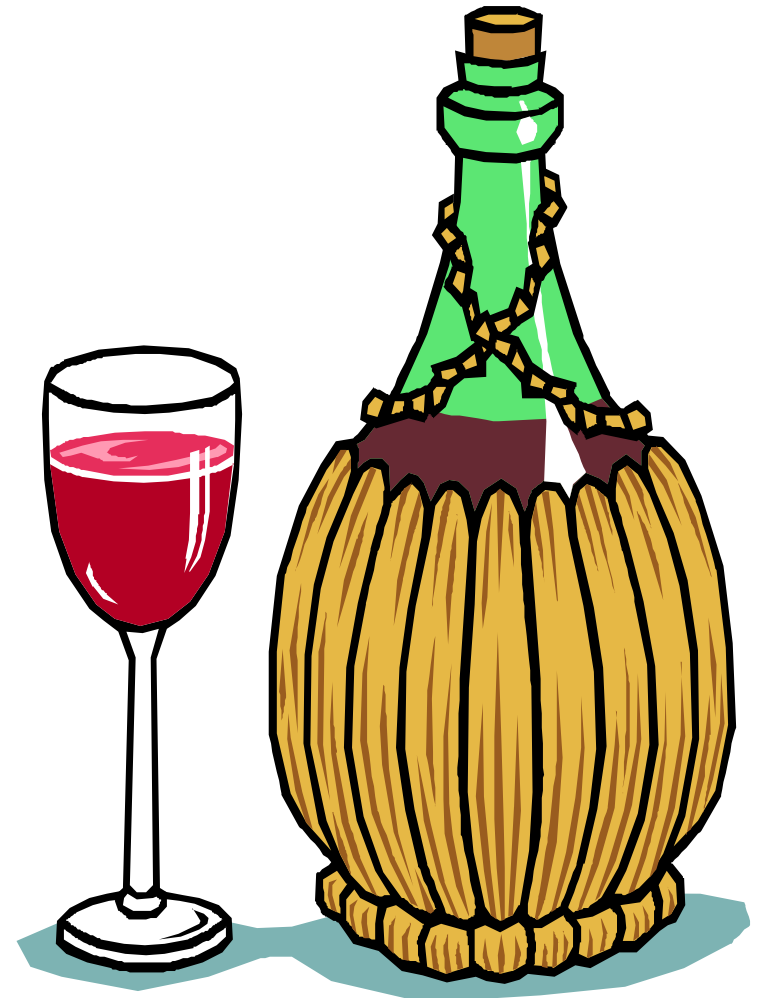
SINCERE

- “NOT DOUBLE-TONGUED”



NOT GIVEN TO DRUNKENNESS

- “ONE WHO SITS LONG AT WINE”
- FERMENTED GRAPE JUICE
- NOT INTOXICATED
- IN SCRIPTURE STRONG DRINK AND DRUNKENNESS ARE FORBIDDEN



NOT PURSUING DISHONEST GAIN

- **“NOT FOND OF SILVER”**
- **NOT GREEDY - THE DESIRE FOR MORE**
- **1 PETER 5:2**
- **MATERIALISM IS NOT HIS PRIORITY**
- **NOT A MERCENARY - SERVES FOR MONEY**



HOLDS TO DEEP TRUTHS

- **KNOWLEDGE OF WORD OR GOD**
- **BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST**
- **HEBREWS 7:26**
- **EPHESIANS 4:15 - 5:12**



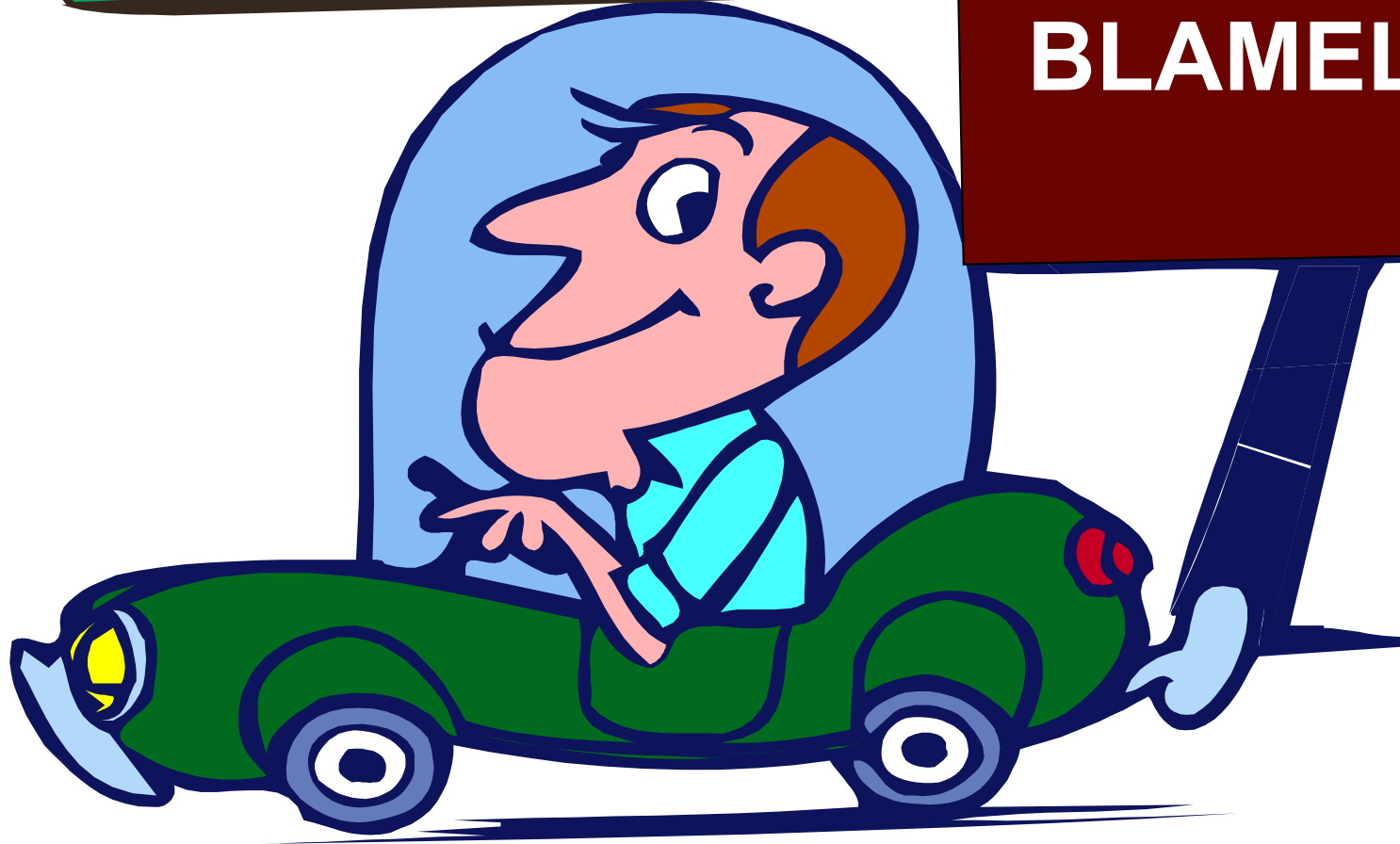
TESTED (AS BLAMELESS)

- ONE AGAINST WHOM THERE IS NO LEGITIMATE CHARGE OF WRONG DOING IN SPEECH AND ACTONS.
- ABOVE REPROACH
- GOOD REPUTATION

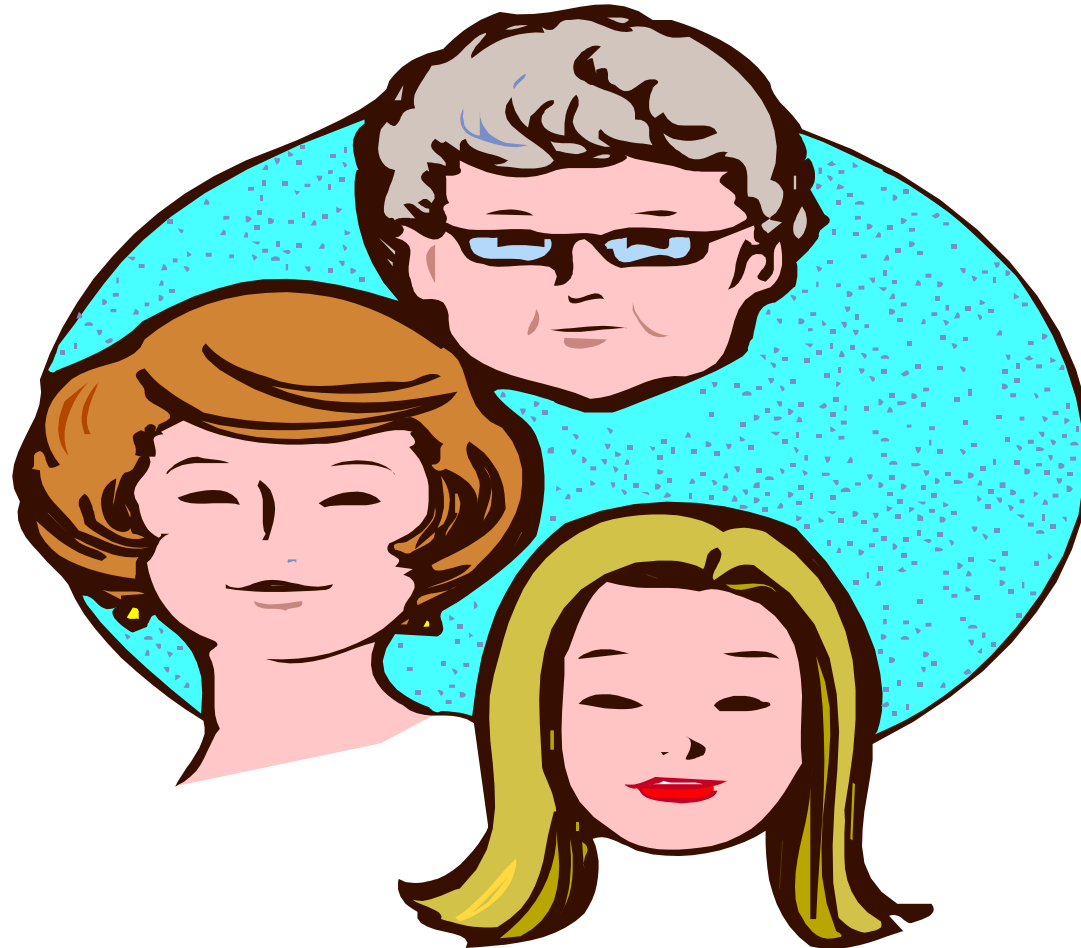




BLAMELESS



WHAT ABOUT DEACON WIVES?



A DEACON WIFE MUST BE...

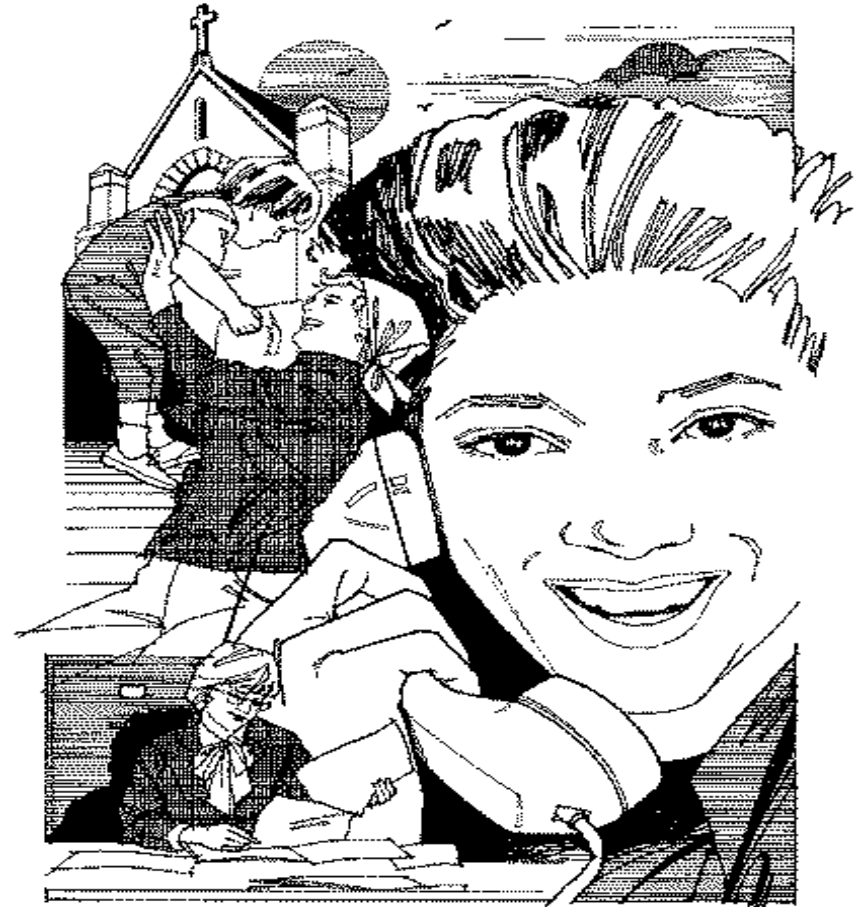
- **WORTHY OF RESPECT**
- **NOT MALCIOUS TALKERS**
- **TEMPERATE**
- **TRUSTWORTHY**

- *These four traits parallel those of deacons in v. 8*



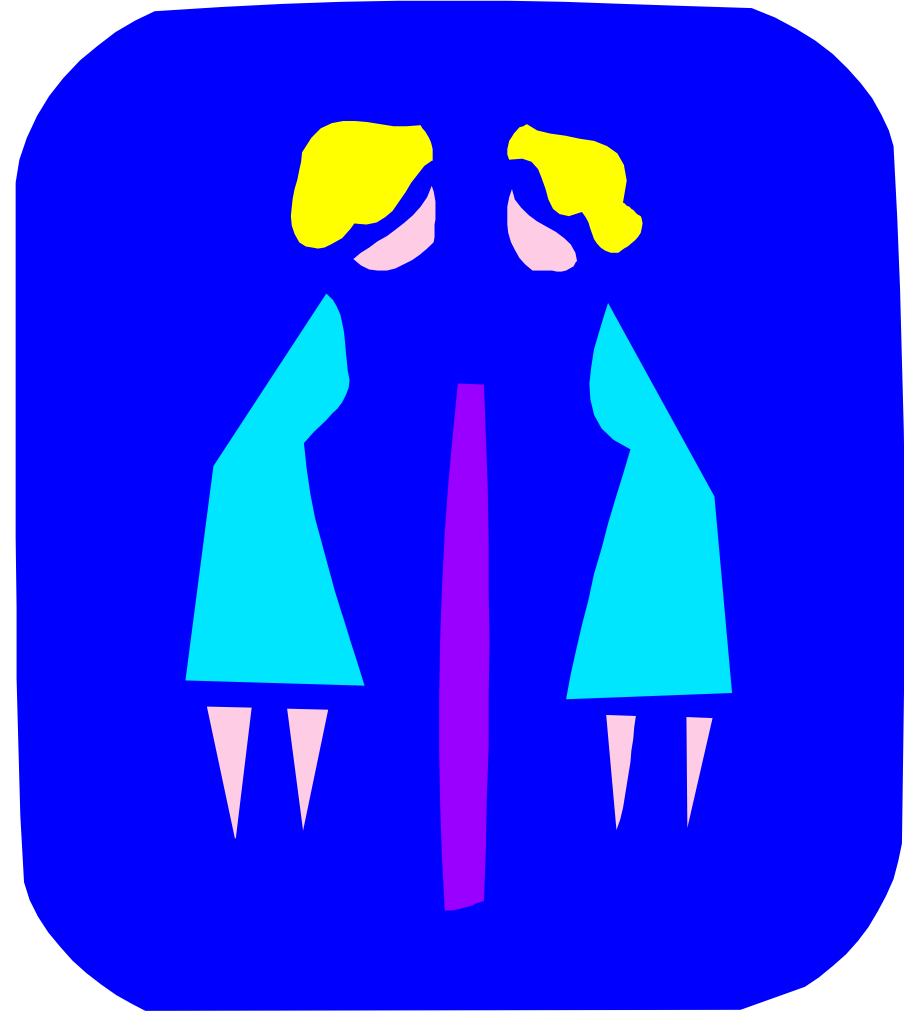
... TO BE REVERENT IN THE WAY THEY LIVE

- **REVERENT -
CONDUCT IN
EVERY AREA OF
LIFE THAT IS
FITTING FOR A
PERSON WHO
PROFESSES TO
WORSHIP GOD**



... NOT TO BE SLANDERERS

- **SLANDER - FALSELY ACCUSE, BACKBITING**
- **MALICIOUS GOSSIP - SPREADING STORIES ABOUT OTHERS WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE**



... NOT TO BE ADDICTED TO MUCH WINE

- **CONTROLLED BY, INTOXICATED, A SLAVE TO**
- **WOMEN LIVING IN A PAGAN CULTURE WHERE DRUNKENNESS WAS COMMON**



... TO TEACH WHAT IS GOOD

- **A TEACHER OF WHAT IS GOOD**
- **GOOD - BEAUTIFUL, ATTRACTIVE**
- **ETHICALY GOOD, IN THE SENSE OF WHAT IS RIGHT, FAIR.**

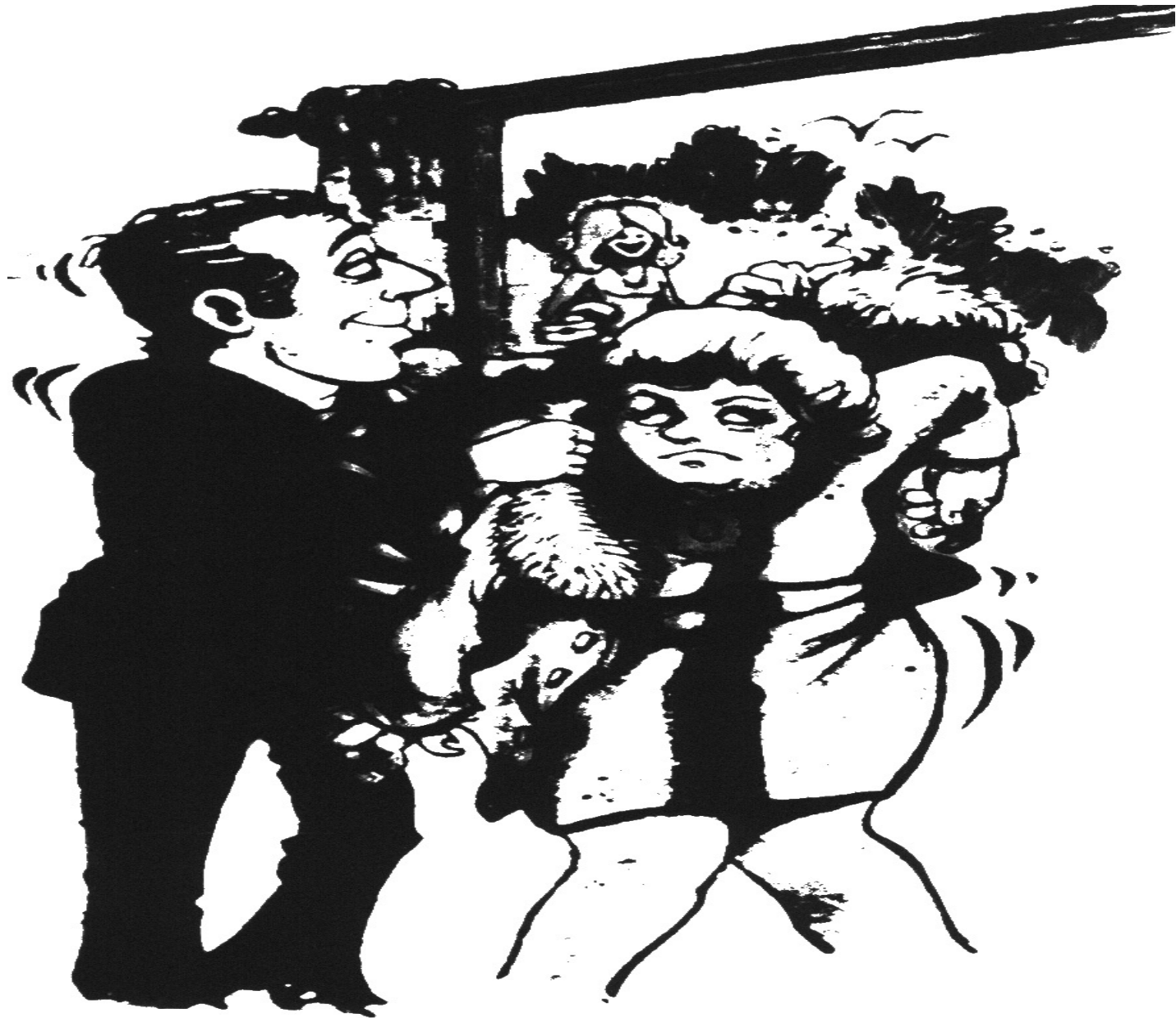


HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE

- **LIT. “ONE WOMAN KIND OF MAN”**
- **CULTURE:**
 - **SEXUAL IMPURITY**
 - **DIVORCE**
- **BELIEVERS WERE “CALLED OUT OF”**
- **CONTEXT: MORAL CHARACTER**



Look at the right woman



HIS CHILDREN

- **CHILDREN = CHILD IN HIS HOME**
- **BELIEVERS**
- **UNDER HIS CONTROL**
- **1 TIMOTHY 3:12 “He must manage his children and his household well” (cf. elders in v. 4)**

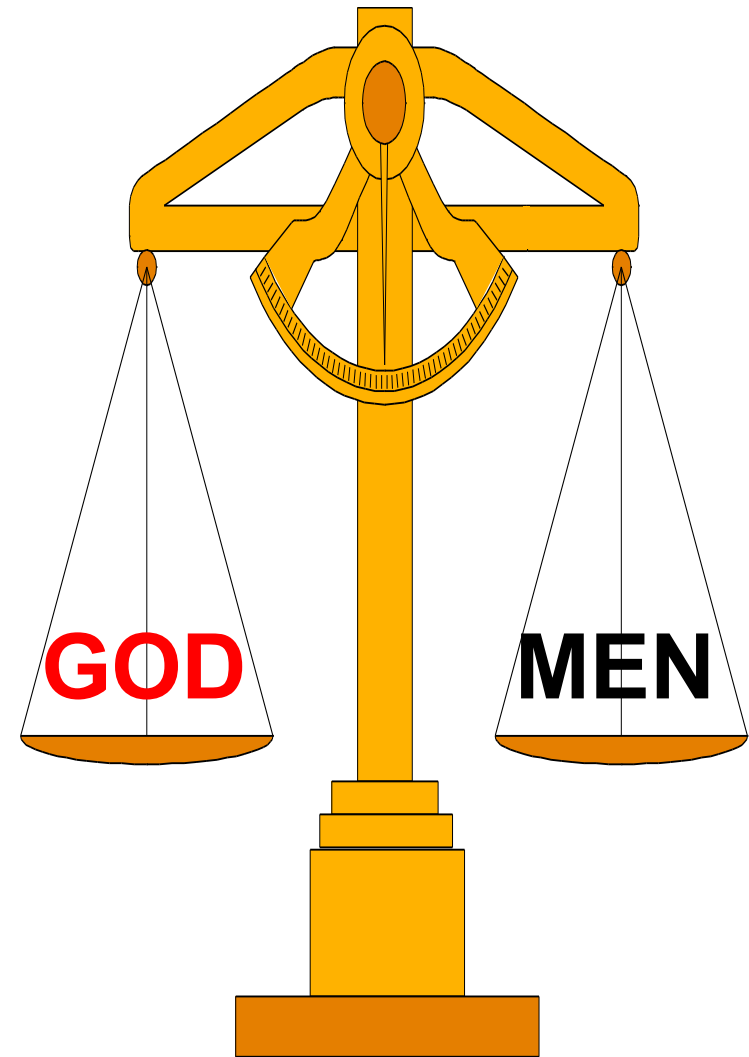


The Frog in the Pan



DEACON REWARDS

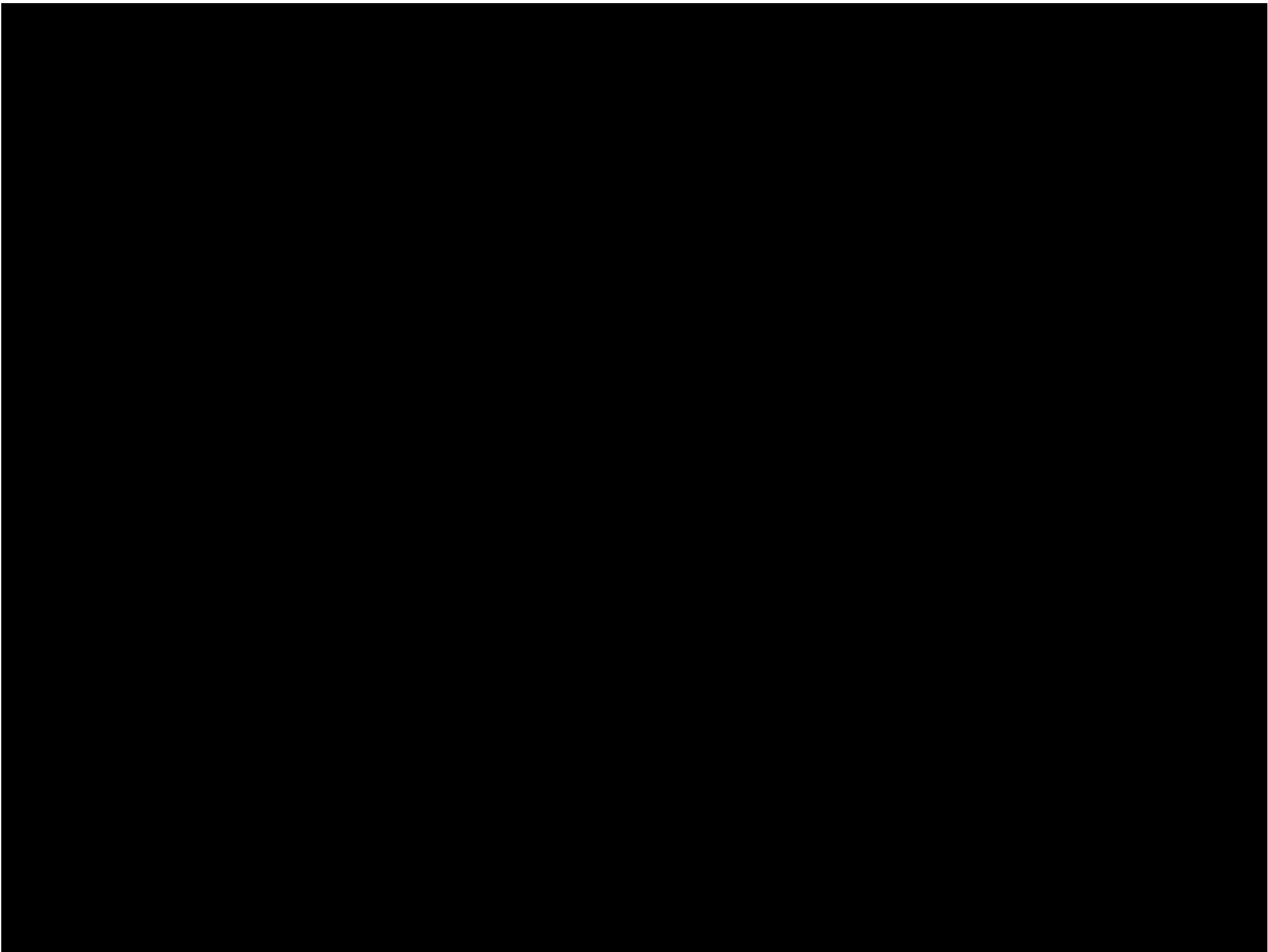
- **“THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED WELL GAIN AN EXCELLENT STANDING AND GREAT ASSURANCE IN THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS” (V. 13)**



Original Group Presentation Members

Priests

By: Grace Eu Soo Hwa
Melvin Koh
Lim Lay Kwan
Wong Shin Hoe



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