



BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP RESOURCES

Passing the Baton of Leadership From One Generation to the Next

Becoming an Effective Spiritual Leader

A Simulcast Conference
March 20, 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the “Becoming an Effective Spiritual Leader” conference! We are so glad you are here and willing to invest your day in improving your ability to not just lead the church, but to lead it spiritually. We know you will be challenged in your growth and skills by investing your time today.

Many changes had to be made for this conference due to the pandemic. We are thankful for modern technology and for people’s flexibility to help us succeed. Special thanks to our live site, Littleton Bible Chapel, for hosting and providing technical and logistical support for the live video feed, and to Forge Road Bible Chapel and Thomas Schetelich for making multiple sites work . Finally, thanks to all the satellite site coordinators, food preparers, photo-copyists, and everyone else who had a hand in making this event happen.

This conference is sponsored by Biblical Eldership Resources, a ministry promoting effective eldership in the local church worldwide. We hope you enjoy today and are challenged to grow in your ability to serve God’s people.

Your feedback on any part of the conference is expected and appreciated—help us improve our ability to help meet the needs of leaders everywhere.

In the name of our Chief Shepherd,

Greg Smelker

About Biblical Eldership Resources

Our Mission

To promote biblical eldership in the church worldwide by providing excellent eldership resources, delivering online elder training and developing elder-mentor networks.

What We Believe

God has revealed in Scripture that the local church is to be shepherded by a plurality of biblically qualified men called elders, working together as a team of under-shepherds accountable to the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is to be contrasted with the common practice of hierarchical or a clergy-laity style church government and pastoral ministry.

The Need Driving Our Mission

Strategic to fulfilling the Great Commission (making disciples of all people) is the strengthening of elders in the work of shepherding, which sets a context and example of discipleship for the whole church, especially for men. Yet, we have observed the following concerns:

- 1) A critical need among churches today is the strengthening of the truth of biblical eldership and the building up of new and existing elders.
- 2) Relatively little help exists for secularly employed elders—help that is available, accessible, and cost-effective. Most leadership training is provided in seminaries or other venues normally accessible primarily to professional pastors and church staff.
- 3) Many conventional churches have begun to see the need for a more biblically based model for shepherding.
- 4) Minimal resources exist for helping churches transition from other forms of church polity to government by elders.
- 5) This is an unprecedented time for influencing the church in the biblical teaching and practice of eldership.

Our History

Biblical Eldership Resources (BER) began in 2010 by a group of men concerned about the state of leadership in the church worldwide. Since the start we have spent considerable time meeting, networking, strategizing, and honing what we consider to be an effective approach for addressing the need worldwide as well as on the home front. Over time, we have shifted our focus from live to online training to reach more people. Our original plan to provide mentors and on-site training (limited by time, cost, and personnel limitations) has shifted to a commitment to use technology to achieve the most widespread impact.

Strategic Principle

We want to maximize the impact of our mission through mobilizing core teams of godly elders around the world who will leverage the most advanced technological tools for teaching, implementing, and equipping for the promotion of effective biblical eldership in the local churches globally.

(continued next page)

About Biblical Eldership Resources (cont.)

Our Strategy

1. Create an online “filing cabinet” of readily accessible resources (written, audio, video) that are free (online) or cost-effective (downloadable, formatted materials).
2. Devise automated, internet-based training resources.
3. Produce collaborative and customizable training programs for new and existing elders.
4. Develop networks of mentors and programs for them to use with new or developing elders.
5. Provide simulcast and on-site conference teaching, webinars, online forums, distance mentoring, mentor training, and elder blogs.
6. Propagate this effort through geographically/culturally centered “regional core teams,” who will translate, contextualize, and adapt the BER materials and strategies into their own contexts.

Who makes up the BER core team?

David Anderson, Littleton, CO
Bob Deffinbaugh, Dallas, TX
Chuck Gianotti, Rochester, NY
Viji Roberts, Mississauga, ONT
Alex Strauch, Denver, CO
Jay Brady, Colorado Springs, CO
Greg Smelker, Littleton, CO

Who makes up the BER Regional teams?

John E. Field, Argentina
Eduardo Nieto, Colombia
Gabriel Hyacinth, Trinidad and Tobago
Robert Quay, Malaysia
Rod Jones, Italy
Marco Vedder, Germany
Chris Leong, Malaysia
Marlon Govender, South Africa

Our Website: www.BiblicalEldership.com

If you are interested in helping us expand BER's impact, contact us at admin@biblicaleldership.com

Conference Schedule (U.S. Eastern Daylight Time)

9:30 a.m.	Registration
10:00	Intro & Announcements
10:15	Session 1 - Alex
11:00	Break
11:15	Session 2 - Tom
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Video Presentation
1:15	Session 3 - Alex
2:00	Break
2:15	Session 4 - Dave
3:00	Q&A Time

Session One

Speaker: Alexander Strauch

Introduction: A New Teaching

I. Jesus Taught That Followership Precedes Leadership.

1. A Follower of Jesus is to Be a Lifelong Learner.

2. A Follower of Jesus Influences Others for God.

3. How to Be a Growing Follower of the Master.

Session Two

Speaker: Thomas Schetelich

WHY do we Model the Leadership of Jesus Christ?

- Effective Spiritual Leadership is not measured by worldly criteria
- Effective Spiritual Leadership is more than organization, management, or preaching
- Effective Spiritual Leadership is measured by making disciples
- The Lesson of the Fig Tree

*Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, [Jesus] was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. **When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.***

In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."

– Mark 11:12 - 14

HOW Do We Model the Leadership of Jesus Christ?

- Purposeful in a Busy World

For there were many coming and going and they did not even have time to eat.

– Mark 6: 31

But the multitudes saw them departing, ...and ran there on foot from all the cities...

– Mark 6: 33

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed.

– Mark 10: 32

“For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

– Matthew 10: 23

- Patience on the Race Course

...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...

– Hebrews 12: 1 (21KJV)

- Focus on the Key Tasks

Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a grasping for the wind.”

– Ecclesiastes 4: 6

- Proskartereo (a present, active, plural verb)

*These all **continued** with one accord in prayer and supplication.*

– Acts 1:14

*And they **continued** steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

– Acts 2:42

*So **continuing daily** with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.*

– Acts 2:46

PUSH Out in the Deep – Go for Depth, Not Breadth

[Jesus] said to Simon, “Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch.” – Luke 5: 4 GNT

WHAT Is the Way to Realize Effective Leadership?

- Companionship with Christ in Ministry

Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude...He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”

– John 6: 5

- The Personal Nature of Leadership

Now Philip was from Bethsaida...

– John 1: 44

- Focus on the Loaves You Have, Not the Loaves You Need

And they said to Him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?” But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have?”

– Mark 6: 37, 38

- Do a Spiritual Inventory

“How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” – Mark 6: 37, 38

FINAL THOUGHTS: Judges 9 and the Parable of the Trees

The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. – Judges 9: 8-15

Session Three

Speaker: Alexander Strauch

Cont. from Session One

II. Jesus Taught That Leadership is Servanthood: Reversing the Leadership Pyramid

1. Gentle and Lowly in Heart (Matt. 11:29)

2. Brothers and Servants, Not Pompous Religious Rulers (Matt. 23:1-12)

3. Instead of Thrones and Purple Robes, Expect Suffering, Sacrifice, and Service (Mark 10:35-45 = Matt. 20:17-28)

4. The Greatest is the One Who Serves the Least (Luke 22:24-27)

5. Embracing the Symbols of the Towel and the Wash Basin (John 13:3-17)

III. Jesus Taught That Leadership is People-Centered Leadership.

1. Develop a Shepherd's Eye for People

2. Remember People's Names

"Greet the brothers by name" (3 John).

"He calls his own sheep by name" (John 10:3).

3. Pray for the People

"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way" (1 Sam. 12:23).

"Epaphras, who is one of your number...always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers...for I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you" (Col. 4:12, 13).

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints" (Eph. 6:18).

"Praying always for you [Christians at Colossae]; we have not ceased to pray for you..."

"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).

4. Encourage People

"But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13).

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.... We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone" (1 Thess. 5:11, 14).

"You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children" (1 Thess. 2:10, 11).

5. Open Your Home to People

"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint" (1 Peter 4:8, 9).

"Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:1, 2).

“Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality” (Rom. 12:13).

It is a requirement for a pastor-elder (Titus 1:8).

6. Speak and Act with Gentleness and Patience

“Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes” (Isa. 40:11).

An elder must be gentle (1 Tim. 3:3).

“Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:1).

“But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children” (1 Thess. 2:7).

“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted” (Gal. 6:1).

“The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition...” (2 Tim. 2:24, 25).

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction” (2 Tim. 4:2).

7. Compassionate Care for Suffering People

“For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need” (Acts 4:34, 35).

“Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men...whom we may put in charge of this task [care for needy widows]” (Acts 6:3).

“They [Peter, John, and James] only asked us [Paul and Barnabas] to remember the poor---the very thing I also was eager to do” (Gal. 2:10).

“In everything I showed you [elders] that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

“contributing to the needs of the saints” (Rom. 12:13).

8. Be Among the People: The Shepherd’s Presence

Session Four
Leadership Abuse: Its Causes and Cures
Speaker: Dave Anderson

1. Jesus on Leadership (Mark 9:33-35; 10:35-45).

2. The Five Traits of Diotrephes:

1. Diotrephes sought preeminence. *“I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first...”*

2. Diotrephes rejected authority. *“does not acknowledge our authority.”*

3. Diotrephes gossiped maliciously. *“So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us.”*

4. Diotrephes refused hospitality to believers. *“And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers.”*

5. Diotrephes controlled others. *“and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.”*

3. Biblical Antidotes to the Diotrephes Syndrome:

1. Diotrephes sought preeminence: *The Antidote: Foster a Culture of Humility.*
2. Diotrephes rejected authority: *The Antidote: Foster a Culture of Accountability.*
3. Diotrephes gossiped maliciously: *The Antidote: Foster a Culture of Encouragement.*
4. Diotrephes refused hospitality to believers: *The Antidote: Foster a Culture of Love.*
5. Diotrephes controlled others: *The Antidote: Foster a Culture of Service.*

Additional Resources by the BER Team

Books by the Team:

- *Spiritual Maturity: Based on Qualifications for Biblical Elders* (available at the BER online store at <https://www.biblicaleldership.com/blogs-bookstore/ber-store> or Amazon.com)

Books by Alexander Strauch:

- *The 15 Descriptions of Love: Applied to All Christian Leaders & Teachers*
- *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership*
- *Paul's Vision for Deacons: Assisting the Elders with the Care of God's Church*
- *Leading with Love*
- *Love or Die: Christ's Wake-up Call to the Church*
- *Meetings That Work: A Guide to Effective Elders' Meetings*
- *If You Bite & Devour One Another: Biblical Principles for Handling Conflict*
- *Equal Yet Different: A Biblical Guide to Gender Roles*

The above are published by Lewis and Roth Publishers (www.lewisandroth.com) and are also available on Amazon.

Book by Thomas Schetelich:

- *The Maryland Law of Religious Corporations, the first treatise on Maryland Church Law* (FSB Press)

Books by Chuck Gianotti:

- *Formation of the New Testament: Your No-Nonsense Guide to Understanding its Authenticity and Credibility*
- *Day by Day: Expositional Meditations:*
 - *Matthew*
 - *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians*
 - *Upper Room*
 - *Hebrews*
 - *Romans*
 - *The Names of God*
 - *1 & 2 Corinthians*
- *Elders' ShopNotes: Volumes 1–5*, Everyday Publishers, Inc.
- *Cosmic Drama: Men, Women and the Church*

The above can be ordered online at www.Bible-Equip.org/emed-daily/bookstore or on Amazon.

Writings of Bob Deffinbaugh:

- See hundreds of articles and expositions by Bob Deffinbaugh on www.Bible.org.

Book by Viji Roberts:

- *My Son: Verses from the Book of Proverbs – God's Inspiration, Solomon's Penmanship*, Davidson Publishing (www.davidsonpublishing.org)

Donations

Please consider helping defray the costs of the conference in your location to cover food, printouts, internet costs, etc. In addition, there were many global expenses including the video streaming service, equipment, planning, travel, speaker remuneration, etc.

You can donate individual in one of the following ways:

1) In person today

Leave a check or cash in the offering at the end of the conference (your site coordinator will tell you how), payable to Biblical Eldership Resources.

2) Online

Go to www.BiblicalEldership.com/donate. All major credit cards accepted.

3) By mail

Send your check or money order to:
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Make your check or money order to MSC Canada and send to:
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c/o MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Unit 16
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4) By phone

(800) 477-3239 or (719) 494-1800 (ask for Jay Brady)
All major credit cards accepted



Thank you for your support!

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