



BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP  
**R E S O U R C E S**

# Reversing the Leadership Pyramid

Three Basic Principles of Leadership  
as Taught By Jesus Christ

A Simulcast Conference  
February 24, 2024

# Welcome

Welcome to the “Reversing the Leadership Pyramid: Three Basic Principles as Taught By Jesus Christ” 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 in the way the Scriptures have set forth. We know you will be challenged in your growth and skills by investing your time today.

We are thankful for modern technology and for people’s flexibility to help us succeed in hosting this Simulcast Conference. Special thanks to our live site, Littleton Bible Chapel, for hosting and providing technical and logistical support for the live video feed. 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 pray you will be challenged to lead those in your charge in a way that follows the principles that Jesus set forth; “But I am among you as the one who serves.” (Luke 22:27)

Your feedback on any part of the conference is appreciated—your input helps us improve our ability to 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 clergy-laity style of 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 in-person 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.

# 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. Provide 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  
Jean Pierre, Palm Bay, FL  
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  
Revanth T, India

**Our Website:** [www.BiblicalEldership.com](http://www.BiblicalEldership.com)

*If you are interested in helping us expand BER's impact, contact us at [admin@biblicaleldership.com](mailto:admin@biblicaleldership.com)*

## Conference Schedule (Mountain Standard Time)

8:00 a.m.	Registration & Refreshments
8:30	Intro & Worship
9:00	Session 1 - Alexander Strauch
9:45	Break
10:00	Session 2 - Mark Hallock
11:00	Lunch
12:00	BER Information
12:15	Session 3 - David Anderson
1:00	Break
1:15	Q&A Time
2:30	End

For our Q & A time, we would love to answer your questions, as time allows. Please email us with your questions sometime during the conference.

Email: [admin@biblicaleldership.com](mailto:admin@biblicaleldership.com)

# Session One

## First Principle:

### **Only Jesus Stands at the Top of the Leadership Pyramid**

*Speaker: Alexander Strauch*

- I. Why Should Church Leaders Proclaim that Only Jesus Christ Stands at the Top of the Leadership Pyramid?
  
- II. What Do Christ-Focused Leaders and Teachers Look Like?
  1. Christ-Focused Leaders Follow Paul's Christ-Focused Example.
  
  2. Christ-Focused Leaders Love to Talk about the Substitutionary Death, the Resurrection, and the Coming of Jesus Christ.
  
  3. Christ-Focused Leaders Promote the Lord's Supper, Prayer, Music, and the Written Word.
  
  4. Christ-Focused Leaders Set Christlike Attitudes in the Church.
  
  5. Christ-Focused Leaders Are Passionate to Obey the Word of the Christ.

# **Session Two**

## **The Jesus Principle for Great Leadership: Lead with Humility**

*Speaker: Mark Hallock*

### **I. Nine Practical Ways to Lead and Pastor with Humility.**

- #1. Don't wear a title as a way to show you're in charge.
- #2. Intentionally develop and deploy other leaders.
- #3. Be quick to give credit to others and just as quick to take the blame.
- #4. Do the things no one else wants to do...and do them with a servant's heart.
- #5. See the value of every person in the congregation.
- #6. Share the pulpit with other elders.
- #7. Practice team leadership and decision making.
- #8. Embrace uncertainty and trust the Lord in the midst of it.
- #9. Joyfully submit to others' ideas even if they are different than your own.

### **II. How to Cultivate Humility in Your Heart.**

- #1. Begin your day by acknowledging your dependence upon God.
- #2. Reflect on the wonder of the cross.
- #3. Study God.
- #4. Invite correction in your own life.
- #5. Laugh at yourself!

**Session Three**  
**The Jesus Principle on Plurality:**  
**How to Practically Emphasize Plurality in Your**  
**Church**

*Speaker: David Anderson*

I. Equality and Functional Diversity Among the Twelve Apostles.

II. Equality and Functional Diversity Among the Elders.

1. There is Equality.

2. There is also Diversity.

III. There Is to be No Formal Hierarchy Within the Eldership.

IV. 10 Advantages of Plurality.



## Donations

Please consider helping offset 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](http://www.BiblicalEldership.com/donate). All major credit cards accepted.

**3) By mail**

Send your check or money order to:  
Biblical Eldership Resources  
307 Delaware Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Or in Canada:

Make your check or money order to MSC Canada and send to:  
Biblical Eldership Resources  
c/o MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Unit 16  
Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 3B2

Thank you for your support!

Biblical Eldership Resources is a ministry of *Church Reform and Revitalization, Inc.*, a 501(c)3 non-profit registered in the US. Your receipt will list the parent ministry.



## 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:

- *Biblical Eldership: Restoring the Eldership to Its Rightful Place in the Church*
- *Acts 20: Fierce Wolves are Coming; Guard the Flock*
- *The 15 Descriptions of Love: Applied to All Christian Leaders & Teachers*
- *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 Biblical Eldership Resources ([www.biblicaleldership.com](http://www.biblicaleldership.com)) and are also available on Amazon.

### Book by Mark Hallock:

- *Leading Church Revitalization*
- *The Shepherd Preacher*
- *Great Commission Revitalization*
- *Who Will Preach?*
- *God's Not Done With Your Church*

The above are published by Acoma Press ([www.acomapress.org](http://www.acomapress.org))

### Books by Chuck Gianotti:

- *Formation of the New Testament: Your No-Nonsense Guide to Understanding its Authenticity and Credibility*
- *Day by Day: Expositional Meditations*. Multiple Books and Subjects
- *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](http://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](http://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](http://www.davidsonpublishing.org))