The Biblical and Apostolic Form of Polity: Part Two
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I. Recap:

A. Our three modern options: Episcopacy; Congregationalism; Presbyterianism.

B. The first three principles of polity in the Apostolic Church:

i. The _____ elected its officers.

ii. The offices of bishop and elder were _____.

iii. There was always a _____ of elders.

II. The Principles of Apostolic Church Polity (Continued)

A. The fourth principle of polity: _____ was the act of the Presbytery in the Apostolic Church.

i. Acts 6: the 12 apostles ordained the first deacons by laying hands on them & praying.

ii. 1 Timothy 4:14: "When the _____ laid their hands on you."

B. The fifth principle of polity: members had the right of _____ to a broader Presbytery.

i. Acts 15: appeal not to a bishop, or just the apostles, but to the apostles and _____.

ii. Their decision was received as an authoritative decision of Christ's church, with joy.

C. The sixth principle of polity: _____ alone was head of the Apostolic Church.

i. Eph 5:23 "The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church."

ii. Colossians 1:18: "[God's beloved Son] is the head of the body, the church."

III. How do the different polities measure up?

A. Episcopacy (0/6)

i. Under Episcopacy, in its various forms, the people are _____ of their right to elect.

ii. And under Episcopacy, the office of bishop is distinct and higher than that of elder.

iii. Under Episcopacy, the higher offices are always held _____, and the lower often are.

iv. Under Episcopacy, ordination is the act of 1 man, the bishop.

v. Under Episcopacy, a church member may only _____ to the Bishop.

vi. And under Episcopacy's various forms, there are various earthly heads of the church.

B. Congregationalism/ Independency (3/6)

i. In congregationalism, the people's right to elect their officers is maintained.

ii. In congregationalism, there is no distinct or higher office of _____.

iii. In congregationalism, there may or may not be a plurality of officers.

iv. In congregationalism, the practice of _____ isn't uniform.

v. In congregationalism, members have no right of appeal, b/c there is no one to appeal to.

vi. And finally, in congregationalism, _____ is the only head of the church.

C. Presbyterianism (6/6)

i. An essential right of members in Presbyterianism is the right to _____ their officers.

ii. The distinguishing characteristic in Presbyterianism is that our churches are elder led.

iii. Again, our churches aren't just elder led, we are led by _____.

iv. When our churches elect new elders, they are set apart for office by the council of elders.

v. If a member ever takes issue with an action of their elders, they can appeal to _____.

vi. And finally, Presbyterianism acknowledges only one head of the church: Christ.

IV. Other arguments for Presbyterianism

A. The Broader Biblical Argument

i. Exodus 18: Episcopacy wasn't working for Moses, so he created a _____.

ii. 1 Timothy 5:17: "Especially those [elders] who labor in preaching and teaching."

B. The Historical Argument

i. The earliest church, after the apostles, largely followed the apostolic pattern.

ii. _____ on Titus 1:5: "It is therefore the very same elder, who is a bishop, and before there existed men who are slanderers by instinct, [before] factions in the religion… the churches were governed by a common council of the elders. But after each one began to think that those whom he had baptized were his own and not Christ's, it was decreed for the whole world that one of the elders should be elected to preside over the others, to whom the entire care of the church should pertain, and the seeds of schism would be removed."

C. The Practical Argument

i. Episcopacy claims: It's more practical and efficient to have _____ in charge.

ii. But is it biblical or wise (Prov 11:14)? Does it protect the peace and purity of the church?