

## We ALL Use TITLES

Jesus specifically taught not to title a man

- Rabbi
- Father
- nor
- Master:

**Matt 23:1-12** Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,  
2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:  
3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.  
4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.  
5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: **they** make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,  
6 And **love** the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,  
7 And greetings in the markets, and **to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.**  
8 But **be not ye called Rabbi:** for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.  
9 And **call no man your father upon the earth:** for one is your Father, which is in heaven.  
10 **Neither be ye called masters:** for one is your Master, even Christ.  
11 But **he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.**  
12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Jesus was called Rabbi:

**John 1:37,38** And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.  
38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, **Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,)** where dwellest thou?

John the Baptist's disciples also called him "Rabbi":

**John 3:25,26** Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.  
26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, **Rabbi,** he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

**Rabbi** is the title of those learned in the Torah (Moses' law) in Judaism.

The Hebrew word for Rabbi is 'Master.'

Jesus' instruction about calling no man 'Father' ....

obviously does not apply to a person's physical "Daddy" ....

else Jesus would have broken His own command.

Jesus Himself used the word 'father' in that manner:

**Matt 10:37** He that loveth **father** or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

**Matt 19:29** And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or **father**, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Some men, who are called 'pastors' --- but refuse the title of 'bishop' -  
have told me personally .... that they don't like titles.

They have argued that the scripture

**doesn't use a 'TITLE' before a man's name**

.... and therefore, neither should we.

However, the same men who said that

**use the title "Pastor" before their own name**

- on • internet web sites                      • business cards
- stationary                                      • signs in front of their church
- church bulletins
- or • preaching tapes, CD's, and DVD's

and they refer to and call their fellow preacher friends -- 'Pastor So-and-So'.

**Even though they disregarded what they said they didn't like --**

**(that is, the use of titles) ....**

I searched the scriptures myself and found a few places in my Bible where a person's '**OFFICE**' (for those who prefer that word over '**TITLE**')  
**actually DOES appear before** their name:

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For examples ....

- 1Sam 18:6 "king Saul"
- 1 Chron 15:29 "king David"
- Luke 16:24 and 30 "father Abraham".

Only 1 time (in Luke 16:24) did I find the 'office' or 'title' appeared with a capital letter ....

so could we then conclude that I could be called 'bishop David Dowell' --- as long as the word 'bishop' had a small letter (lower case) 'b'?

.... Or should I technically be called, "David Dowell, the bishop" ---

but not be called "Bishop David Dowell"

(with neither Capital letter 'B' or little letter 'b'?)

Many so-called pastors, and even 'grace pastors' with whom I have talked, while refusing of use of the KJV word 'bishop' for the office they are filling - and while stating that they disagree with using 'titles' before a man's name, they introduce or post their friends' names ....

as • "Brother So-and-So"

or • "Elder So-and-So" ....

**Well, they are using "Brother" and "Elder" as titles!**

Furthermore, we all use titles .... in every day life:

There's Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Dr. Jones, Uncle Joe, and Cousin Joe.

There's Govenor Smith, Senator Smith, and Congressman Smith.

Now there's a trash collector, with the title of Waste Disposal Representative

and a Sales Account Executive, and an Office Manager, and a President

.... and we have titles on doors entering rooms, like Nursery, Youth Class,

Men's Restroom, Utility Closet, and Fellowship Hall.

**Yes, titles are important identifiers.**

They distinguish offices, positions, responsibilities, and relationships.

When we 'right-dividers' deal with folks in traditional denominations --

one of the first things we teach them to believe ---

is the 'final authority' of the scriptures .... which in English .... is the KJV.

I think that any of us preachers in grace churches who do that ---

and then deny the very 'name' of the office of 'bishop'

that GOD'S WORD says that we occupy ---

we should be embarrassed enough to quit being stiff-necked ourselves!

In cases like that .... WE need to take the same medicine we give others --

and that is to NOT CHANGE the holy words of God.

We boldly defend the KJV's use of the word 'dispensation' ---

yet we're 'silent' on the 'title' of the office we hold of 'bishop'? How absurd!

Now let's see God's design for **order** in the local church.

To '**ORDAIN**' means to designate, to appoint, to conduct.

The '**ELDERS**' are the presbytery .... the seniors.

Certain older men are to be assigned the duties of governing the churches.

Each locality should have some:

**Tit 1:5** For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders in every city**, as I had appointed thee:

The elders in a church are to be the leaders who 'run' the church.

Notice .... in this next verse .... that:

Point 1) Elders are supposed to rule well.

Point 2) Some elders 'work' in the teaching/preaching ministry.

(These would be the bishops.):

**1 Tim 5:17** Let the **elders that rule well** be counted worthy of double honour, **especially they who labour in the word and doctrine**.

Let's go back to Titus 1, and start with verse 5 again, and go thru 9:

**Tit 1:5-9** For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders in every city**, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a **bishop** must be blameless, as the steward (that's like a house manager or governor) of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.  
(That's the 'good work' of an elder, who desires the office of a bishop.)

This next passage naturally reads that one man (signified by the word 'a' bishop, and the pronouns he and his -- all in the singular) would want to do the 'work' of studying to deliver sermons as the regular preacher.

**Nowdays, protestant religious denominations call that man the 'PASTOR'. That's the whole point -- GOD's WORD in the KJV -- calls him a 'BISHOP' -- and so should we!**

Then comes the deacons (in the plural, with plural pronouns like them and their .... which means more than one man):

**1 Tim 3:1-13** This is a true saying, If **a man** (singular) desire **the office of a bishop**, he desireth a good work.

2 **A bishop** (singular) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One (singular) that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice (a young or new believer), lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he (singular) must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Likewise must **the deacons** (plural) be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

10 And let these (plural) also first be proved; then let them (plural) use **the office of a deacon**, being found blameless.

11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

12 Let the **deacons** (plural) be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

13 For they that have used **the office of a deacon** well purchase to themselves a good degree (that's a grade of dignity), and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Deacons are servants like attendants, waiters, and hosts.

Jesus' 12 disciples, whom He trained and sent out as apostles, were certainly considered leaders. He promised they would be rulers:

**Matt 19:27,28** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, **ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

After Judas betrayed the Lord, his position needed to be replaced:

**Acts 1:20** For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

That is a quote from:

**Psa 109:8** Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

Judas was also both a minister and an apostle, and to succeed him, two men were qualified candidates:

**Acts 1:23-26** And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

25 That he may take part of this **ministry** and **apostleship**, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Using Judas Iscariot for an example, to 'eliminate' the word 'bishop' as the 'title' of the office in 1 Tim 3:1,2 and Titus 1:7

.... is a poor excuse for not doing the right thing.

That's like saying, "We're not going to say Jesus died on a cross anymore" --- instead, we'll say "He died on a TREE" .... because that's what Acts 5:30 and 10:39, and 1 Pet 2:24 call it.

After all, Paul (in Gal 3:30) even uses 'tree' when he refers to Deut 21:23.

We could say that 'religious denominations' use the word 'cross' so we want to avoid looking like them!

Maybe instead of identifying ourselves 'dispensationalists' .... we should say we are 'superintendents' --- or 'house managers'.

We should not 'boycott' the word 'bishop'

by discriminating against

religious people with doctrine that we oppose ....

or because of 'race' when it comes to using the word God gave, in this case "bishop".

*This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"*