

**ESTABLISHING AND RECOGNISING ROLES IN A  
DEVELOPING CHURCH OVERSIGHT**

(Paihia Family Church – Dec 1986 – EKB)

1. When a group of men are joined together by the Spirit of God, to establish a church oversight, and a new Christian assembly in an area, it is necessary for them to see clearly their own spiritual function, and the spiritual functions of the others in the eldership.
2. This may take time, but by prayer and revelation from the Holy Spirit, God will reveal the gifts and place each one is to fulfil.
3. As each one becomes aware of his call and spiritual role in the eldership, he needs to share this honestly with the others. This sharing needs to be in all humility and openness. If a particular elder's thoughts are not received and recognised by the others, reactions of fear, insecurity, threat, disappointment, frustration, must be refused in Jesus' Name. Each elder must wait in faith, trusting God daily, to reveal to the other elders what the Lord has shown him. There may be adjustment and change, as the oversight members come to a clear understanding of what each one's role, function and authority are in the eldership.
4. It is important that members of the eldership, stand before God, and one another, and declare acceptance and **“agape”** - love one to the other.  
  
“I will always act in **“agape”** - love towards you, and never selfishly for my own gain, at your expense.”
5. An elder may be a leader, a teacher, a pastor-shepherd, a prophet, an evangelist, an apostle, and have various other gifts.

*See 1Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11, 1Cor 12:1-10, Rom12: 3-8, 1Pet 4:10.*

## **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH**

(The Exercising of Authority to Lead)

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1. The way Leadership authority is exercised in the Church is different from the way authority is exercised in the secular business world.
2. In the secular business world, the employer has the authority to instruct the employee in whatever work-tasks the employer requires to be done, in line with the aim of the business. The employee is expected to respond in a positive way and to comply with the instructions given.
3. In the realm of spiritual authority, however, the process of leadership is quite different. Those whom God has called to lead in the Church, are usually the ones to whom God reveals His will and purpose. This God-given awareness of His will, needs to be shared by the leader with other mature men of God in the Church oversight, so that they can seek the Lord also for the witness of the Holy Spirit, regarding the issue placed before them. In this way, the leading of God's Spirit will extend through the eldership-oversight, and the certainty of God's will, will be established by two or three witnesses. (*2 Cor 13:1*). Once there is agreement in the oversight, as to the will of the Lord, this leading can then be shared with the whole Church for prayer and comment, as is necessary and right in the Lord. (Not unwisely). Because every believer is responsible to walk in the Spirit of God, the way leadership authority is exercised, needs to take this into account.

Jesus describes the difference between secular, worldly authority, and spiritual authority in the church, in *Matthew 20: 25-28*, and like passages.