

Church Organization Midterm Study Questions  
Intro – Elders

1. Know the 5 main chapters in Genesis that detail the Abrahamic covenant. Which main chapter most clearly defines the origins and nature of the organized church in the OT?
2. What are the three necessary requirements (Reformed perspective) for the constituting of the church? Show the existence of the visible church in the OT from the time of Abraham by giving proof texts for each of these three distinguishing marks.
3. What is the distinct shade of meaning between the Hebrew words *qahal* and *`edah*? How does the LXX normally translate these Hebrew words?
4. Be able to show the biblical unity between the OT and NT church.
5. Know the NT proofs that refers to the *ecclesia* in the OT.
6. What is the significance of the language of Nehemiah 13:1c (LXX) with regard to NT ecclesiology?
7. Be familiar with NT proof texts for a) for the invisible Church; b) for a collection of churches in a district being called the “church.”
8. What elements (in terms of worship and government) did the NT church inherit from the Synagogue system?
9. How was the synagogue system the bridge between the sacerdotalism of the old dispensation and the freer approach of the new dispensation? How widespread was the synagogue system?
10. What was the regional presbytery called in the intertestament period?
11. If an “overseer” is an “elder,” what is the distinction in the meaning of these terms?
12. List Witherow’s six requisites for church government with one clear proof text for each.
13. Show that the authority of the Church is declarative and not penal.
14. Be familiar with the “three office view” vs. the “two office view” for the post-apostolic church. Give the biblical basis for the division of labors between the two orders of teaching and ruling elders.
15. Give a biblical position regarding women elders.

Church Organization FINAL EXAM Study Questions  
Deacons to Course End

1. Know the pro/con arguments for fixed terms of office as opposed to the position of holding office one's whole life without standing for re-election.
2. Name two NT passages that warrant the office of deacon.
3. List and illustrate the normal functions of deacons.
4. Argue biblically for and against women deaconesses.
5. Illustrate biblically the practice of "imposition of hands" at an officer's ordination. Suggest the significance of this practice.
6. Defend biblically and historically that the nature of church discipline is "declarative and ministerial," and that corporate and penal discipline passed after the establishment of the apostolic church.
7. In promoting the purity of the church, the scope of church discipline focuses on what two key areas? (I.e., what are the two main types of chargeable offenses?)
8. Biblically support the main purposes of church discipline.
9. How is church discipline exercised in both preventative and remedial manners? Give biblical examples and proofs.
10. Distinguish and biblically illustrate the exercise of administrative and judicial disciplines.
11. List in order and biblically support the four escalating degrees of censure of church discipline. What is the ultimate cause of excommunication?
12. Offer biblical proofs of required submission of members to church elders. Is this submission absolute and unconditional, or can exceptions be shown?
13. Name some advantages of regularly planned business meetings.
14. Why do most Reformed churches follow established rules of order at meetings? What are the four main classes of motions in *Robert's Rules*?
15. Argue biblically and practically for the necessity of church membership.
16. List five major topics that can be addressed in New Member classes.
17. List some advantages of holding an annual review for the pastor(s) and full-time staff members. Any disadvantages?
18. Newly ordained pastors can opt out of paying Soc. Sec. taxes on grounds of religious conviction. Offer a biblically based rationale for opting out or for staying in the system.
19. Describe several important elements of church leadership and how leadership can be distinguished from church management.
20. List the key steps in pursuing conflict resolution.