

Belonging 2: Presbyterianism

Reminder: Jesus is the head of the body

What's really important, isn't the most distinctive

Bible

Presbyter: Greek for Elder

- Elder/pastor/bishop are the same.
 - Acts 20:17-38; Phil 1:1; 1 Pe 5:1-2; Titus 1:5-7
- Bishop/overseer feeds and directs the flock by God's word
 - 1 Pe 5:2; 1 Tim 3 (by teaching)
- Elders/bishops are set apart/ordained
 - 1 Tim 4:14; Acts 14:23; Titus; 1 Tim 5:19
- Teaching/ruling elders?
 - 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Cor 9
- Acting together
 - Acts 15 etc.
- Deacons
 - 1 Tim 3; Acts 6

All called to speak God's word to each other & serve each other.

History

- Spread of early church: growth in role of "bishop" ("golden" era, to 300-500AD)
- Increase complexity in hierarchy (archB, Metropolitans etc.)
- Centres: Jerusalem, Antioch, Constantinople & Rome (then just last 2)
- East/West split 1054
- Luther 1517, 95 thesis
- Strands: Lutheran, Reformed, (Presbyterian/Congregationalist), Anglican, Anabaptist
- England in the 1630-40s, Westminster assembly & standards
- 1662 Great ejection

Distinct concerns

- Best of both world! Connected & local
- Heb 13:7-9 – catholic (small c)
 - Concern for past & present, prayers & creeds
 - Psalms, new hymns, old hymns
- Logic

Cash value