

How are Your Ministry Chosen? Are they Paid? Do they need a Degree in Theology?

Our ministry are chosen by Divine Revelation or "Called by God". In order to verify these callings are truly from God there must also be several witnesses as well as a witness to the one being called.

2 Corinthians 13:1 - *This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*

Hebrews 5:4 - *And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

2 Nephi 5:2 - *Behold, my beloved brethren, that I, Jacob, having been called of God, and ordained after the manner of his holy order,*

Alma 6:31 - *And behold, I have been called to preach the word of God among all this people, according to the spirit of revelation and prophecy;*

Alma 9:69 - *And thus being called by this holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest,*

Luke 9:1 - *Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.*

Once a calling is accepted of God as being true the person called is then ordained by laying on of hands as was done in the scriptures.

Moroni 2:2 - *And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after that ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles.*

1 Timothy 4:14 - *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

One key commandment given to God's ministers is that they do not do this work for money:

1 Peter 5:2 - *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

Micah 3:11 *The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us. 12 Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.*

Mosiah 9:57 *And he also commanded them that the priests, which he had ordained, should labor with their own hands for their support;*

So what are the different offices of the ministry that one should find in the Church of Christ?

Moroni 2:1 *The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them.*

Moroni 3:1 *The manner which the disciples, which were called the elders of the church, ordained priests and teachers.*

As we see the Restored Church of Christ can have 12 Apostles, Elders, Teachers and Priests. Some may question the office of Bishop and Deacon which is never mentioned in the Book of Mormon. Going back to the original Greek words for Bishop we find it means Elder. The Greek word for Deacon simply means helper or assistant. The Old Testament office of High Priest was done away with the fulfillment of the Law of Moses when Jesus died on the cross. Surely there would not be a place for a High Priest to offer up animal sacrifices after what Jesus did on the Cross. Finally a theological degree is not a requirement, after all most of the original 12 Apostles that Jesus called in Israel were unlearned men, only Paul was learned and his learning was a great stumbling block he had to overcome. Being learned isn't a bad thing if:

2 Nephi 6:61 - *But to be learned is good, if it so be that they hearken unto the counsels of God.*