

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

SO ELDERS CAN MAKE UP OFFICES, HUH?!

So many of the unauthorized human institutions that exist amongst “The Lord’s people” claim to be “under an eldership” of a local congregation of the “Lord’s church” (as if the Lord is really with those innovators). Note the following evidence:

- “*Since its inception in 1965, the school (Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver) has been operated under the sound oversight of the elders of the Bear Valley church of Christ*” (http://www.bvbid.org/PDFs/BVBID_GenBroch.pdf).
- “*GBN (Gospel Broadcasting Network) is under the oversight of the elders of Highland Church of Christ in Dalton, Georgia*” (<http://www.gbntv.org/eldership.html>).
- “*We (Mountain States Children’s Home) are under the eldership of the Longmont Church of Christ on Collyer Street in Longmont, CO*” (Darla Geiger, Office Manager MSCH) (Quote from an email query I sent MSCH).

Statements like these sure make the errorists feel comfortable, but in reality they do not prove the scripturalness of a local church being involved with institutionalism and all the other errors associated with it. Why? That is another article for another time. For now, all I wish to do is pose a question to all those who chime in that their favorite unauthorized human institution is “*under an eldership*” (and thus acceptable to God). The question is as follows: “**Where in all of God’s Word, specifically the New Testament, did God authorize elders to make up offices and titles foreign to the pages of Scripture?**”

If you love the truth (2 Th. 2:10), you know that the liberals will be forever silent in the response. Clearly, God has not authorized elders to make up offices and create job-titles that cannot be found in His Word. If, indeed, He has, just where is the passage (Col. 3:17)? The liberals *claim* to know better than this yet they have created offices and titles foreign to the New Testament with seeming impunity. Let me show an example:

According to www.bvbid.org/staff_faculty.html, Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver has on their staff:

- Dennis Petrillo – **President** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- J. Michael Hite – **Vice-President of Operations** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- Wayne Burger – **Campaign Coordinator** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- Dave Chamberlin – **Dean of Students** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- Bob Turner – **Director of Extension Centers** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- Mark Hanstein – **Academic Dean** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- Bill Stewart – **Director of Development** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)
- Wayne Nelson – **Assistant Director of Development** (Where is the verse that allows elders to make up this office?)

Not one of these men (one of which is an elder at Bear Valley), nor any of the other elders who “oversee” The Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver (bvbid) can cite a passage that authorizes elders to come up with the listed offices. Yet, despite the fact that no scripture can be given, the website of bvbid asserts: “*We at Bear Valley are absolutely committed to teaching the inspired word of God. We want to speak where Scripture speaks and be silent where Scripture is silent*” (www.bvbid.org). Based on the information listed above any honest heart can see their claim is HOGWASH!!! They need to practice what they advertize!

Folks, **elders, like every other Christian, can only do what God has authorized** – once again cf. Col. 3:17.