Week 8

Episcopal Formation Part 3

# Course Overview

Instructor

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This week we pick up from where we left off with in chapters 5 & 6 with a little review. We allow the review to bring us to chapters 7 [The function of the Bishop] and 8 [Apostolic Succession].

We will explain the "WORK" of the bishop as he **functions** as the pastor of the people of God in a certain area.

We will again review "apostolic succession" and continuity. We will give reasons why succession is not an issue for most outside of Anglicanism, Rome, and Orthodoxy. And show why it has no value unless you are trying to be convergence.

# Course Materials and other Resources

 ***Episcopal Formation: The Second Edition,*** by Archbishop Thomas Henry Jr

 Slide Show on the Bishopric

# Read the following Scriptures:

**2 Timothy 4:1-8; 1 Peter 5:1-5**

# Course Study Guide

Let’s begin by defining a few words that we will be using in our discussion this week.

**Anachronism** – it means the act of attributing a custom, event, or object to a period to which it does not belong.

**Episcopos** – superintendent, overseer, president, supervisor and [bishop from the transliteration of the German word Biscoff, which is the German word for episcopos]

**Diocese** – The Local church which the Bishop leads and pastor made up of multiple congregations. The term “diocese” were first applied to the 5 major patriarchies then eventually became synonymous with the local church.

**Faculties** – the license and or permission to operate and function in a particular vocation [calling].

**Pontifex** – means priest from which we get our word “pontificals” from. The Bishop when presiding is said to “pontificate” during the liturgy. Because of the Levitical understanding of ministry, the bishop is said to be the “high priest’ and the presbyters are the “priests” and the deacons are associated with being the “Levites”.

**Read chapters 7 thru 8 of *“Episcopal Formation: The Second Edition”***

**The slide show is an Anglican piece that is interesting as it relates to the bishopric and fits in with this lesson this week.  Once you click on the link, click play (>) and read the slides.**

**Functions of the Episcopacy**

**Thou Art Peter –** The Roman Church claims the Pope along is Peter, but the Early church had an understanding that all bishops were Peter, because they all shared in Peter’s Confession and the charged given to Peter was not given to him along but to the rest of the apostles as well.

**Not Absolute in Authority -** The post-Apostolic church believed that apostles had unlimited authority but believe that the bishops as successors to the apostles enjoyed apostolic authority but their authority was limited to the church that they pastored. They only enjoined unlimited pastoral authority as a council when gathered in regional and general/ecumenical councils.

**The Bishop’s ministry involves 3 main functions -** teaching, governing and sanctifying.

**The Bishop’s pastoral ministry –** The often ignored element of the Pentecostal/Baptacostal episcopacy. The Bishop is not just an administrator, the bishop is first and foremost a Pastor. Not just a Pastor to Pastors, but a PASTOR. He is the teaching-pastor/shepherd mentioned in Ephesians 4:11. He is one of two elders mentioned in the scripture for the local church in 1 Timothy 5:17 – the one which ruled only [presbyter/elder] and the elder that ruled and labor in the word (preaching) and doctrine (teaching) which is the BISHOP.

**Pages 55 - 58 –** We mention in the book 5 particular ministries of the Bishop to the church. They are as follows:

**The Bishop as the visible sign of Unity**

**The Bishop as Evangelist**

**The Bishop as stewards of the mysteries of God**

**The Bishop as Judge of his brethren**

**The Bishop as shepherd of souls**

# Apostolic Succession

What is Apostolic Succession? Succession of the Hands or the Chair.

How did it begin?

Why is Continuity so important?

Continuity and the idea of the church being a living Organism and the Constitution of the church.

Protestants and the Break in Continuity

Archbishop Michael Ramsey – Three meanings to Apostolic Succession.

**Course Schedule**

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| Week | Subject | Course Information |
| 1 | The Holy Scriptures | Inspiration, The Canon, Original text |
| 2 | Sacramental Theology | Reformed verses Roman Catholic View of Sacraments |
| 3 | Church History Overview | Ages of Church, Continuity, Reformation |
| Week | Subject |
| 3 | Exam on Holy Scriptures and Sacraments (Online) Feb 29th |
| 4 | The Liturgy and the Bishop |
| 5 | Catholicity: Creed and Apostolic Succession |
| 6 | Episcopal Formation Part 1 |
| 7 | Episcopal Formation Part 2 |
| 8 | Episcopal Formation Part 3 |
| 9 | Review |
| 10 | Episcopal Formation Part 4 |
| 11 | Episcopal Formation Part 5 |
| 12 | Episcopal Formation Part 6 |
| 13 | Review |
| 14 | Program Review |

# Homework

**Answer the following:**

Describe the 3 meaning of Succession as outline by Archbishop Ramsey in your own words.

How is the Bishop the Sign and Source of Unity?

What are the 3 mean function of the Bishop?

When changes are so drastic that it effects the constitution of the church is there a break in Continuity? True of False

Why are all bishops said to be Peter?

Describe in your own words the 3 main function of the bishop?