

Why We Do Not Have Clergy 6-16-13

I. The Clergy Concept

A. Clergy – cleric, clerk; “allotment”

*And they gave forth their **lots (kleros)**; and the **lot (kleros)** fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. Acts 1:26*

1. Clergy refers to persons on whom the Holy Spirit has been passed to

2. Clergy have been uniquely chosen by God

a. *Westminster Seminary* lists 10 ways to be called

B. Clergy often describe themselves as Called by God

1. Clergy Titles: Pastors, Reverends, Priests/Fathers, Parsons/Preachers

2. The difference between a TITLE and a WORK:

a. A title becomes part of a name (“Pastor Bob”, “Father Jack”, “Reverend Jon”, “Bishop O’Malley”)

b. A work is the job description (Bob is a pastor, Brian is a father, etc)

3. With the exception of “Reverend”, many titles are true Bibel works,

C. In liberal churches of Christ there is a milder version of clergy

1. Consider that the Seminary system establishes ordination

a. Seminary means Seed

2. Among liberal brethren the clergy system is rooting itself

a. With preacher schools

b. With titles such as Youth Ministers, Sr. Ministers, etc.

D. Even among conservative brethren there seems to be an idea similar to clergy

a. Sometimes brethren believe preachers or elders have unique understanding

b. Sometimes brethren think that a preacher “should” have gone to a particular schools, or worked in a preaching internships/understudy, etc

II. What’s the Big Deal?

A. Jesus **HATED** titles such as these

1. Matthew 23:5-12

a. He hated the idea and the mind behind it

b. Matthew 20:25-27

B. We all have equal share of the Spirit - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

C. We are all called in a like manner - John 6:44-4

D. The Word of God is the only seminary

1. Luke 8:11 “**The seed is the word of God.**”

2. The Word calls men:

a. As elders, deacons, preachers

b. BY QUALIFICATIONS

E. God does not select favorites - Galatians 2:6, Acts 10:4

F. At the heart of clergy

1. False esteem - people want to be honored (called Rabbi in the marketplace)

2. Sense of ease

a. People want a preacher, not a person

b. People do not want to have to search the Scriptures to see if it is true

3. Fitting in with the world – I Samuel 8:19-20

III. Conclusion: Why We Don’t Have Clergy

