WDTBSA-Titles
Matt 23:9/ Eph 4:11-12
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show titles used in the Bible versus what we see today.

Intro: 1. Have you ever wonder why there are so many "positions" out there today?
2. Wonder where such titles and positions come from, if they even come from the Bible?

I. Positions as seen in the Bible.

Bishop – Acts 20:28, Phil 1:1, 1 Tim 3:1-2, Titus 1:7, 1 Peter 2:25
- An overseer and bishop have the same meaning. An elder is another term for the same person as bishop or overseer (Acts 20:17). This term indicates the work undertaken. There were to be bishops (plural) in every local church (Acts 14:23, 20:17, Phil 1:1, Titus 1:5, Jas 5:14). Where the singular is used the passage is describing what a bishop should be, 1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:7.

Pastor – KJV not NKJV (Jer 17:16)- shepherd in NKJV. Pastors guide as well as feed the flock (Acts 20:28, 20:17, 1 Peter 5:1-2). This is the same as Elder, Overseer, Shepherd and Elder all names reference the SAME position and this position is used in plurality and NOT singularly. By this we know there is no scriptural support for a man who preaches to go by the title of pastor without other pastors in the congregation. Pastors are more often preachers and not a pastor.

Elder – indicates the mature spiritual experience and understanding often found in older men. In the N.T. the arrangement seen was for a plurality of these to be appointed in each church (Acts 14:23, 20:17, Phil 1:1, 1 Tim 5:17, Titus 1:5). There works are further described in (Titus 1:6-9, 1 Tim 3:1-7, & 1 Peter 5:2).

II. Positions not found in the Bible or are improperly used.

1. Priest – one who offers sacrifice and has the charge of things pertaining to those things used. Heb 3:1, Heb 4:14-15 –referencing Christ who was the Priest who offered the supreme sacrifice for all time. There is no such thing as an office of a priest today, as the priests job was to offer up sacrifices that the people brought to them. Since Christ brought the supreme sacrifice once for all mankind there is no need for such a priest as seen in the Old Testament & the early New Testament period.

2. Reverend – (Ps 89:7, Titus 2:3) The term reverence is used in reference to God and Him alone. Reverend is not found in the Bible what is found is the trait of being reverent. It refers to a sacred character and not a position. Psalm 111:9

3. Pope (?) not found in the Bible, some make the claim that Peter was the first "Pope" (Mt 16:18). The **Pope** (from Latin: papa; from Greek: πάππας (pappas) a child's word for father is the Bishop of Rome, a position that makes him the leader of the worldwide Catholic Church.

4. Cardinal (?) not found in the Bible. A **cardinal** is a senior ecclesiastical official, usually an ordained bishop, and ecclesiastical prince of the Catholic Church. They are collectively known as the College of Cardinals, which as a body elects a new pope.

III. Results of positions that contradict the Bible.

A. Unauthorized positions of authority.

1. Those who hold positions not given by the Bible are disobeying God's design for the church.
2. Those who hold unscriptural positions of authority bring reproach upon the church.

B. Unscriptural positions cause confusion.

1. How many times do we hear people use terms incorrectly?
2. We ought to be abide by the phrase of old "call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways".

Conc:

1. Are we teaching or encouraging titles to be used that aren't found or supported in the Bible.
2. If we want to have men in positions of authority for the Kingdom of God then we have to do so in accordance to the Bible's design.
3. Full Invitation