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Representative Overseeing of Elders Contrasted Against The Guru Covering Teaching

Representative Overseeing (of Elders)

It is being called here *Representative Overseeing* (of Elders) because it brings us back to the thoughts of what has been given to leaders from God. In other words some would call these leaders by the term “Under-Shepherd,” “Under” here adding respect to the term because the Title of Headship is Jesus Christ which is called in Scripture the “Chief-Shepherd!”

From this point we can then proceed to explain that there is a *Sacred Trust from God* which must be honored here, in which leaders are to represent the Lord and are to give reverence! This *Sacred Trust must always be acknowledged in leadership*, the *Supreme Headship* of the church (the Bible Jesus) which comes to us via His Holy Word the Bible. Leaders which violate this “*first principle*” are therefore *outlaws* and *outside* of the Lord and His Spirit!

All overseeing then... from leadership toward the Lord’s fold is to be from a perspective of an *under-shepherd* as submitting to the Chief Shepherd and His Word the Bible and *following after the Holy Spirit*.

Matt.28:18-19 ... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

As seeing Him who *is the power* and *the glory*, *forever*...we therefore take “His” command and Go... as “His” power backs up “His” teaching... we are “His” disciples. Under-Shepherd’s recognizes that *genuine authority* can *only exist* in the service of the Bible Jesus who alone has SUPREME AUTHORITY!

This then represents the *proper attitude* and *reverence* which should be given in regard to our *relationship with leaders* and *leader’s relationship* with the Lord’s flock.

I believe it is best seen in this passage:

Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves “one to another” in the fear of God (which is reverence to the Bible Jesus, *His Headship* of the church *by the Word and Spirit of God*).

As representative overseeing leaders we must **KNOW**:

Matt. 23:8....for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

ALL YOU ARE BRETHERN one to another...which includes leaders!

Here the Scripture magnifies the Head of the church and lessens all to Him...yet sets equality in the church by saying ALL ARE BRETHERN.

Jn. 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

While we believe in the proper reverence of overseers according to the Scriptures the degree in the area of ministry **is that Christ be served and seen!**

1 Thess. 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are **over you in the Lord, and admonish you**

First, overseeing here is a special gift from God. We identify with this gift because of the fruit.

1Corin. 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

We must acknowledge here that we are to seek out the Lord's Spirit to direct us in being placed – set in the right congregation. God has a plan for each person and where they are to be a member, the minister being assigned to them by the Lord to oversee them spiritually. The Lord doesn't lead people to congregations with out first giving this minister *the spiritual gifting of oversight* to them, the capacity for the leader to reach into God's leading, and have His mind and guidance in helping the individual to gain maturity from the Lord and the plan of God, help in fulfilling the special calling and will of God by being gifted by the anointing and assigned to role of a spiritual parent over the person. *There is always a spiritual confirmation* in the person attending (peace being the foremost confirmation) , and a confirmation of the *spiritual gifting of oversight* from the leader toward the person in the flock both individually and corporately.

1Thess. 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you

Once we have the confirmation of the Lord.... We have His blessing upon us and can *steer clear from the spiritual abuses* which come in being in the wrong place... among them which do not honor the Lord's Headship and Holy Word as first place.

We know that there are no perfect churches but there is a congregation the person is to be set into. We recommend when visiting whatever congregation that you pray over yourself that the Lord keep you from being mislead (a spirit of error) and *from following after* a man-centered religious congregation *verses* the true church who acknowledges the Lord's Headship in FOLLOWING THE BIBLE JESUS .

Heb. 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have (past tense) spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Overseeing is an action verb! This is what I mean by the Leader having *the gift or capacity of function* which comes from the Lord to directly speak into the person's life which has been *assigned* to the congregation. Here the minister has proven that capacity, and in many cases ministers do over and over again until the person *begins to acknowledge their own awareness that the Lord is governing and overseeing the person through this gift*.

1Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye *received the word of God* which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Representative Overseeing works through preaching the Word by the leading of the Lord. The working of the Holy Spirit in leaders, the capacity of *the gifting of oversight* is seen by the acknowledgement that the Lord is working through what is being spoken toward the person. Oversight is given and proven by the Holy Spirit.

Prov. 15:23by the answer of his mouth: and “a word spoken in due season,” how good is it!

Under-Shepherd’s spiritual work is to represent the Lord’s position as working and representing *His behalf, always honoring the Lord’s Word and turning the flock’s attention to the final authority of the Scripture* which is in fact is the Head of the church the Bible Jesus. Since true unity comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the light of Scripture, the harmony of the body which is the congregation of saint *are all pointed to honor the Bible Jesus of the Scriptures*, which is the correct concept in *Representative Overseering* according to the N.T..

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to “declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Why do we need a *Representative Overseer*? The Bible says it is because God has assigned and gifted persons to oversee us as WATCHMEN for our souls! The Watchman is needed in our lives to give us someone to *oversee - speaking into our lives - bringing awareness* so we can keep our perimeters and strengthen our spiritual walk with the Lord.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

God expects us to honor Him in being respectful toward those that He has set as Watchmen.

Heb 13:24 Salute all them that have the rule over you (which have been strengthen by God’s Grace to lead), and all the saints.

God is the one who gives a leader the strength to lead....in wordin example. It is only through the ability of the Holy Spirit, in His direction, by which the Representative Overseers sends us to God’s Word. This overseeing capability is from the Lord, (Eph.4).

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Notice, it is in fact the Holy Spirit *who makes a leader “His overseer.”* As *“His Rep.”* these feed “His” church “His Word,” and do so to secure their way toward spiritual maturity.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ Notice here He didn’t say bringing us into *a spirit of unity*, but THE UNITY OF THE FAITH! Overseers proclaim the true faith (Christian belief), then we come to unity (by the Word and Holy Spirit)....then the spiritual maturity growing up (together) as the body into “His fullness.”

1Corin. 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (discernment).

Also in **the Book of Acts** - The over arching authority throughout all spheres is the this first principle termed: N.T. -Sola Scriptura. When church leaders met in Jerusalem to discuss theological matters, *their appeal was to Scripture*. Their deliberations had to "**agree**" with "**the words of the Prophets**" (Acts 15:15).

Our point of unity *comes from the Head*. **The Bible Jesus** is the **AXIUM** which we revolve around. Anything lesser than Jesus as the CENTER *causes division*, and so the Apostle here warns us. (See other article on - Christ At The Center Of Our Theology) If the overseeing rule is founded upon anything other than God's Word in someone's life then it is not honored by the Holy Spirit and the guidance therefore is MAN CENTERED. Many false prophets and gurus found authority upon themselves which cause spiritual abuse and injury to God's people.

Ezek. 13:17set thy face against the daughters of thy people, *which prophesy "out of their own heart;"* and ***prophesy thou against them***
Jerem. 5:31 The prophets prophesy *falsely*, and *the priests "bear rule" by their means;* and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

When God says here "*prophesy thou against them,*" He is saying it out of the final authority of His Word, whereas the false prophets are leading people away from that final authority to "*bear rule" by their means*, in other words out of their own MAN CENTERED rule of people. To rule by their own means also would mean to do so without support from God! There is false governments which have set themselves up in the church, the New Testament declares them as Nicolaitans.

Rev. 2:6 & 15 But this thou hast, that thou hatest *the deeds* of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. So hast thou also them that *hold the doctrine* of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Again, these ***take authority*** and ***found authority in themselves***, not in the realm of Scripture and Headship unto Jesus Christ. These *honor themselves* and not the Lord in their rule in the church.

The attitude of an overseer is always Christ honoring first, then ministering toward the needs of others.... and so rulers are first to be examples....

1Pet. 5:3 ***Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*** This example is best seen in serving as Jesus said.

Lu 22:25-26 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but ***he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger;*** and ***he that is chief, as he that doth serve.***

Mark 10:44 And whosoever of you will be ***the chiefest, shall be servant of all.***

Jesus made overseeing authority in the congregation dependent upon servant hood to Him first and then the His flock.

Acts 15:26 ***Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Service for God as a servant of God means that God is spending your life for His purpose in bring people to heaven. Such servant hood requires a selfless and serving attitude...doing our service to give God all the glory worshiping Him. So we see that the Bible equates overseeing as servant hood unto God...and as His servant the overseer is having his life spent by God attending to the Lord's flock.

1Tim. 5:17 Let **the elders** that **rule well** be counted worthy of double honour (support), especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

It is laborious to be a Watchman over people's soul. Spiritual labor is the work of overseeing one does which is laying out the foundation and soundness of God's Word in people's lives which will bring their walk closer to God and keep them.

James 1:21 ... **receive with meekness the engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls.

For the Overseer the Bible Jesus is the most important person to be followed. Therefore teaching by the counsel of God's Word is the main focus which engrafts by God's Word the vary image of God who is the Bible Jesus into our soul.

Lk. 12:42-44 And the Lord said, Who then is that **faithful and wise steward**, whom his lord shall **make ruler over his household**, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is **that servant**, whom his lord when he cometh **shall find so doing**. Of a truth I say unto you, that **he will make him ruler over all that he hath**.

Representative Overseeing then is brought out here from the Scripture and called a STEWARDSHIP. The ideas here are faithfulness and wisdom in the overseeing of the house. The Lord is the one who is doing the promoting here of course since it is "His Kingdom" and "His Church." Rule over what is the Lord's means the Lord requires accountability at all times.

Eph 5:23 ... as **Christ is the head of the church**: and he is the saviour of the body.

In the Book of Acts - The Over Arching Authority Throughout All Spheres

When church leaders met in Jerusalem to discuss theological matters, their appeal was to Scripture. Their deliberations had to "agree" with "the words of the Prophets" (Acts 15:15).

Paul's Overseeing Example In The Principle Of N.T. Sola Scriptura

When Paul "reasoned" with the Jews, what revelation standard did he use? "And according to Paul's custom" **he "reasoned with them from the Scriptures."** (Acts 17:2) **Paul, who claimed apostolic authority** (Romans 1:1; 11:13 1 Corinthians 9:1; Galatians 1:1), did not rebuke the Berean Christians when **they examined "the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things"** he was telling them were so (Acts 17:11). Keep in mind that the Bereans are described as "more spiritually noble-in mind than those in Thessalonica." Could an Apostle be put on the spot like this? Could an Apostle challenge a Church doctrine with such an appeal? Notice that the Bereans were equal to Paul when it came to evaluating doctrine by means of Scripture. Paul's argument "**For what does the Scripture say?**" (Romans 4:2). Paul "opposed" Peter, the first Apostle, "to his face"

on this doctrine ([Galatians 2:11](#)), demonstrating that "a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus." ([verse 16](#))

Christ Alone Is Our Covering In Contrast Against *The Guru Covering Teaching!*

Ps.91:1-4 ...read it please!

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide *under the shadow of the Almighty.* I will say of the LORD, *He is my refuge and my fortress:* my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. *He shall cover thee with his feathers,* and *under his wings* shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

The Bible says that:

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God.* Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

His Name Is YHVH – CHASAH – God our Refuge, Covering and Hiding Place

Any leader who tells you that they are your “**covering**” is crossing the line spiritually because he or she is going beyond the Word of God in the use of spiritual authority into spiritual abuse of authority – and that God never supports! We should label all such leaders who teach or exercise themselves in this way as a “**CULT!**”

My Personal Experience With A Pastor

I personally witnessed this *embracing* and *practice* of the “**guru covering**” teaching *in use* in the Assemblies of God Church. The senior pastor I met at a prayer meeting was holding three girls at the altar very tightly in prayer. I overheard his prayer, as he told them, “**I am your covering, girls**”.... “Lord, your banner over us is”.... “**Wait, I am your banner!**” “**Girls, I am your banner of love!**” Then he personally held each girl for a longer than normal period...which made me think,(?) this looks real funny.... Yes, of course....*he is also married!* ***This is what cults do***...they appeal to the person’s need for attention...appealing to their emotions, why?.....to get control over them. Here, the so called Pastor was working with *this false concept* and using these people’s *insecurities*, and *emotional dependency* to set up a *control*, often these are found to be are working together hand in hand. When I heard this and took the pastor aside, I asked him to read Psalms 91 as you just did above, but his response was to stop his reading when I told him, “You are not the overing... You are not written in this passage.” His response to me was, “I am the pastor here!” I said, “Of course you are; however, **you are not the covering!**”

“Terminology?” I said. “We need to get our terminology from the Bible not New Age Guruism.” I the said to him, “I am correctable –teach me,” and that, “I respectfully disagree; the bourdon of proof is upon you, just show me in the N.T. were that terminology is – called COVERING.” The Bible calls pastors “*overseers,*” “*watchmen*” of our souls. “ I said, “*I can’t find anywhere where it’s expressed as a “covering!”*”

“You’re correctable?”... the pastor said, *now trying to intimidate.* “My conscience is captive to the Word of God so...I said, “**Just show me in the N.T.**” I then tried to hand

him my Bible but he refused walking over to the other side of the church. His face was snorkeled up with his hand was over his mouth and face. *I saw that the Lord was troubling him in that convicting way...spiritual conviction was all over him at this point...he was wrestling with God what a fight of flesh...*

2Peter 3:16which they that are unlearned and unstable (((wrest,))) as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

*Yet, he never repented for his actions; he went on in his guruism at this time.... (((Leaders are teaching guruism in the church today!))) Spiritual abuse always comes with *strange teachings* foreign to the Bible and the Bible Jesus. It was weird in that prayer meeting. (*another spirit*) Also, they were playing Islamic *praise* music to pray to...the prayer leader was waving banners around the church house, these banners each supposedly meaning something according to their individual color or color codes....the white one was supposedly the invitation to the Holy Spirit, etc.... and this same prayer leader was praying for Christianity and Islam *to become one!**

Off The Deep End? Or The New Practice Of The Modern Church?

The pastor, by claiming he was their banner of love, was, by what he was saying, was claiming himself to be YHVH –NISSI, one of the Names of God. He was claiming to manifest himself as the banner of God over the three girls. The pastor, at most, is an under-shepherd, while Christ Himself is the, “Chief Shepherd of His Flock.” The Bible says that pastors are “overseers,” “watchmen” for people’s souls. Christ is the HEAD of the church and therefore the COVERING toward ALL believers! There is a healthy accountability toward God and to every person in the congregation (the Pastoral office is not outside of this) which is in submitting one to another in the reverence and in the light of the Holy Scripture.

***No pastor or spiritual leader has authority outside of the written word of God!**

Christ is the ONLY true Banner over us, and it is His love alone which is shed in our hearts through the Holy Spirit to all who come to him having their object of faith in the Cross!

Is “The Covering Teaching” taught in the Bible???? As we examine the strange new age “guru covering” teaching, first we must find the term “**covering**” itself in the Bible. (((*Amazingly*))), the word only appears once in the entire N.T., used in connection with a woman's head covering (a subject which is talking about reverence for God in tradition -- 1 Cor. 11:15).

While the O.T. uses the word sparingly, it always uses it to refer to a piece of natural clothing or an overlay of some sort. *It never uses it in a spiritual way to refer to authority or submission.*

Consequently, what we can say about “**covering**” is that there is true lack of Biblical evidence upon which *to construct this doctrine*. Yet, despite this fact, **countless Christians “beep” the mantra “who-is-your-covering?”** - pushing that question *over and over* as the supreme litmus test of measurement as to authority in a church or ministry.

The Bible is *strangely silent* to the idea of "**covering.**" So what do people mean when they ask, "Who is your covering?" Most people (if pressed) would rephrase the question as: "**To what person are you accountable?**" But this raises another huge point: **the Bible never consigns supreme accountability to mere human beings. It consigns supreme accountability exclusively to God** (Matt. 12:36; 18:23; Luke 16:2; Rom. 3:19; 14:12; 1 Cor. 4:5; Heb. 4:13; 13:17; 1 Pet. 4:5). Strangely, however, the Biblically sound answer to this question ("I am accountable to the same person you are--God") *is often a prescription for misunderstanding and a recipe for false accusation.* Jesus is the head of the church, after all, but verses like:

Eph 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" is **not enough** to drive the Biblical point home for some.

Of course *there is a healthy form of accountability in the church,* we do not advocate rebellion against God's Word and spiritual leaders which are not accountable to it. Of course we should have respect for men of God. But the type of so called accountability connected with **the "guru covering" false doctrine** and *the cults* that teach this doctrine.... lack not only Biblical merit, but **are crossing the spiritual authority line with God.** We call such congregations operating in these ways - *subjects for... or cases for spiritual abuse!*

What's the real question behind "Guru Covering" Teaching? So what do people *really mean* when they are *pushing the "Covering" question?* I submit to you that many of them are saying or actually asking, "**WHO IS CONTROLLING YOU?**" The common falsehood about the "Guru Covering" really boils down to the questions about **who controls whom.** Many in the modern church have embraced this teaching and built upon this idea of CONTROL. This makes them akin to "**CULTS**" since in reality they are *doing exactly the same practice!*

How the story of "covering" is told.....

Example: **the concept goes like this:** everyone must answer to someone else who is *in a higher ecclesiastical position.* This translates into **the subclass "laypeople"** answering to the "**pastor.**" In turn, the "**pastor**" must answer to a person **who has more authority.**

So the pastor will typically trace his accountability to a **denominational headquarters,** to another church (often called the "**mother church**"), or to an influential Christian worker (who is perceived to have **a higher rank** in the **ecclesiastical pyramid**). As a result, the "**laypeople**" are said to be "**covered**" by the pastor, and the pastor is said to be "**covered**" by the denomination, the mother church. The fact that people can trace their accountability to a higher ecclesiastical authority is the equivalent of being protected by that authority and so the story goes on....

But this reasoning generates the following telling questions: Who covers the mother church? Who covers the denominational headquarters? And who covers the Christian worker? Some have offered the answer that God covers these "higher" authorities. But such an answer *begs another question*; **why can't God be the covering for ALL - the "laypeople," or even the pastor, etc.?** Of course, the real problem with the "Man-Made Pyramid" model is that it violates the Spirit of the N.T.; for behind the pious rhetoric of "**providing accountability**" and "**having a Covering**," there looms a system of government that is void of Biblical support and is *driven by the SPIRIT OF CONTROL*. ***"Spiritual Guru's" love and live for this control!***

Submission to a group, or *so called* spiritual authority doesn't necessarily *guarantee* that a person or persons will not be in rebellion toward God. If the *group*, or *so called* spiritual authority is **"OUTSIDE SCRIPTURAL BOUNDS"** **then they "ALL" can be submitting in REBELLION together!!!!**

God does have a Biblical structure of "authority" and "accountability", but it is necessary to test whether those who are submitted are *first submitted* to the "**Supreme Authority**" of God's Word – the New Testament word, doctrines, and Holy Spirit. (*We submit this teaching pointing out God's authority from a Biblical standpoint!*)

Rev. 2:2b*thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars...* (Having unbiblically based teachings – but still claimed authority over the church!) **Testing church leadership by the measure of Scripture will always be necessary.**

Where did this "guru covering" teaching come in? As I said before this teaching and practice of spiritual abuse, is as old as time, but recently again was embraced and given root into the Pentecostal and Charismatic church during **1972** and **throughout the 70's**. It was at this time that the church embraced this **false doctrine** through *some books on spiritual authority* **which gave birth to the spiritual abusive "False Shepherding Movement."** These books returned authority back to the *former view and practice before the Reformation* and **attacked the Sola Scriptura principle** of the N.T. Bible. These books became instrumental in a return to the "*higher authority ecclesiastical pyramid*" model....much like the Roman-Catholic system which they received from the Greeks. The *doctrine and deeds* referred to in the Scripture are that of the Greek Nicolaitan system and practice of this "*higher authority ecclesiastical pyramid*" which goes *against* the "**Priesthood of All Believers**" teaching in the New Testament and Sola Scriptura principle restored at the Reformation. The books which were embraced also advocate that leaders have their own authority from God apart from the Scriptures. These practices also *revert back to before* the Reformation period.

Moving back to *our current times*, the church often reverts and refilters *these bad teachings back into the church* because this is the devil's plan to destroy it's foundation by spiritual destructive teaching. This demonic teaching *came in* and *continues* to exist by *false teachers* (((**Beware!.. of these when you here them say,...."I AM YOUR COVERING!"**))))

It is our times *that seem to be most troublesome* when we see that the church is so bogged down. Nothing seems to be able to get done or be moved forward without people referring back and *asking their own personal Guru!* Simple spiritual exercises which Christ gave His church - commanding to do saying "GO!"...are now areas where we must *ask permission* from the Guru first, or else they disobey the Guru for obedience to Christ. (really?") People don't read their own Bibles any more without seeking *the Guru's interpretation* or seeking out *the Guru's groupie's spin*. These I call Cults and NOT Christian because they no longer serve the Bible Jesus, but serve Another Jesus which have been *fabricated by the Guru!*

May these Gurus all come under God's judgement for misleading the church of God, and spiritually abusing the Lord's own people. God deliver those who will repent!

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