

Biblical Authority for Ministries (by Titles)

Remember one of the restoration leaders' famous statements which became the motto of the Restoration Movement? "We must speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent, call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways." **That statement is about authority and all its implications.**

What is the source of all the titles for the different "Ministries" in the church today? The denominational world has assigned titles to various "Ministries," which reveals the obvious source for the newly adopted pattern in the church. As we see below, there is nothing in the scriptures that would begin to indicate the pattern used by the denominations or some liberal churches today.

min·is·try (min-ĭ-strĭ), n., pl. -tries.

1. the service, functions, or profession of a minister of religion.
2. the body or class of ministers of religion; clergy.
3. the service, function, or office of a minister of state.
4. the body of ministers of state.
5. (usually cap.) any of the administrative governmental departments of certain countries usually under the direction of a minister of state.
6. (usually cap.) the building that houses such an administrative department.
7. the term of office of a minister of state.
8. an act or instance of ministering; ministrations; service.
9. something that serves as an agency, instrument, or means.

The word minister is defined in scripture as: NT:1248 diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah); from NT:1249; attendance (as a servant, etc.); figuratively (eleemosynary) aid, (official) service (especially of the Christian teacher, or techn. of the diaconate):

NT:1249 diakonos (dee-ak'-on-os); probably from an obsolete diako (to run on errands; compare NT:1377); an attendant, i.e. (genitive case) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specially, a Christian teacher and pastor (technically, a deacon or deaconess):

The following 'ministers' are described in God's word: Notice, that to none of the ministries mentioned in the New Testament has a title been given with the exception of the **apostles, elders and deacons.**

- Deacons are given the title of this office (1 Tim. 3:10, 13).

- Elders are given the title of an office (1 Tim. 3:1).
- The apostles were given the title of a ministry (Acts 1:17; Acts 1:25; Acts 20:24; Rom. 11:132; 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:11).
- Old Testament Priests were given the title of office (Luke 1:8-9; Heb. 7:5; Heb. 9:21).
- He uses the term office for all the different works of the church (Rom. 12:4).
- The apostles had the work of ministering of the word but no title (Acts 6:4).
- The Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabus to a specific work but no title (Acts 12:25; Acts 21:19; 2 Cor. 4:1; 2 Cor. 6:3).
- According to the definition this was menial service of any kind but no title (Rom. 12:7).
- Stephanus was giving menial service to his brethren but no title (1 Cor. 16:15).
- The apostles were given the ministry of reconciliation which could be a title, but no one uses that title today. (2 Cor. 5:18).
- Whatever ministry this is it is not given a title (Eph. 4:12).
- God gave Archippus a specific service to do, but give it no title (Col. 4:17).
- Timothy was given a service to do but given no title for it (2 Tim. 4:5).
- Christ was given a ministry on earth but no title is given to it (Heb. 8:6).