

Discussion on the Book of Church Order

Preface (BCO)

1. Who is the Head of the Church?
2. Where did the Church receive its system of government and discipline?
3. In your own words, give phrase-length summaries of the preliminary principles.
4. Which documents make up the constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America?

Form of Government

Chapter 1 (BCO)

1. Name the various kinds of church government, which kind of government is the PCA? Support our form of government from Scripture.
2. What does “Ecclesiastical jurisdiction is not a several, but a joint power” mean?

Chapter 2 (BCO)

1. Of whom does the visible church consist?
2. Is the unity of the Body of Christ destroyed by denominations?
3. What determines if a denomination is a true branch of the church of Jesus Christ?

Chapter 3 (BCO)

1. What are the two types of Ecclesiastical power?
2. What are the sole functions of the Church?
3. When does the exercise of church power have divine sanction?

Chapter 4 (BCO)

1. What is a “particular church?”
2. Who has the power of jurisdiction in the particular church?
3. What are the ordinances established by Christ?

Chapter 5 (BCO)

1. Who has authority to organize a church?

Chapter 6 (BCO)

1. Who are the members of the church?
2. What is the difference between communing and non-communing members?

Chapter 7 (BCO)

1. What were the extraordinary offices of the New Testament? Do we have them today?
2. What are the ordinary and perpetual classes of office in the Church?

Chapter 8 (BCO) | Timothy 3, Titus 1

1. Compare the offices of Teaching and Ruling Elder.

Chapter 9 (BCO) Acts 6

1. Describe the office of Deacon as indicated in the *BCO* and support from the Scriptures.

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Chapters 10 (BCO)

1. Why do we speak of the “courts” of the Church, in reference to our various graded assemblies of elders? (Hint: see *BCO* 11-2)
2. Name the church courts.

Chapters 11 (BCO)

1. What is the jurisdiction of church courts?

Chapter 12 (BCO)

1. Of whom does the Church Session consist?
2. List some of the specific duties of the church Session.

Chapter 13 (BCO)

1. List some of the specific duties of the Presbytery.

Chapter 14 (BCO)

1. List some of the specific duties of the General Assembly.

Chapter 15 (BCO)

1. Describe the difference between a committee and a commission.

Chapter 16 (BCO)

1. Can any man be placed over a church as Pastor without the consent of that church?
2. Why is every candidate for any office to be examined and approved before serving?

Chapter 17 (BCO)

1. What is ordination?

Chapter 24 (BCO)

1. Review the ordination vows for elders and deacons. Can you heartily affirm them?

Chapter 25 (BCO)

1. What is the procedure for calling a congregational meeting?
2. Section 7-12 of *BCO* 25 contains several important statements. Outline the highlights.

Chapter 26 (BCO)

1. What is the procedure for amending the *BCO*?
2. What is the procedure for amending the *Confession of Faith*?

The Rules of Discipline

Chapter 27 (BCO)

1. According to *BCO* 27, what is church discipline? In what two senses is the term used?
2. What are the aims of church discipline?

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Chapter 28 (BCO)

1. How are we to provide discipline for noncommuning members?

Chapter 29 (BCO)

1. What constitutes an offense?

Chapter 30 (BCO)

1. What censures may church courts inflict? Describe each of them.

Chapters 31-33 (BCO)

1. What is a “case of process?”
2. Who are the parties in a case of process?
3. Under what circumstances should a church court institute process?

Chapters 39-46 (BCO)

1. How do the acts and decisions of a lower court come under the supervision of a higher court?
2. Describe the higher courts’ work of “general review and control.”
3. What is a “reference?”
4. What is an “appeal?” On what grounds can it be made?
5. What is a “complaint?”
6. What is a “dissent?” What is a “protest?” What is an “objection?”
7. What is an “associate member?”

Directory for the Worship of God

Chapter 47-55 (BCO)

1. What are the proper elements of a worship service?
2. What are the responsibilities of every Christian on the Lord’s Day?
3. What ought to be included in every worship service?

Chapter 56 (BCO)

1. Discuss the practical aspects of the administration of Baptism (56-1,2, & 3).

Chapter 58 (BCO)

1. Discuss the practical aspects of the administration of the Lord's Supper (58-1,2, & 3).

Chapters 62, 63 (BCO)

1. Other than stated Lord’s Day service, what are two other special occasions for worship?

These questions were taken from Ligon Duncan’s training materials for elders and deacons at the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, MS.