

Chapter 3

Qualifications for Overseers and Deacons

1

The Head of the Church is: Jesus Christ

Col. 1: 17,18—"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born of the dead, so that He himself will come to have first place in everything."

Eph. 1:22, 23—"And He (God) put all things under His feet, and gave Him (Jesus) as head over all things to the church."

2

What is an "organic" church?

Defining the Church

- The people, not the building
- The collective group of "called out ones"
- Born-again believers
- Individuals adopted into the family of God through adoption by the blood of Jesus Christ
- The Body of Christ
- The Bride of Christ

ORGANIC implies an entity is alive and growing, living

The **ORGANIC CHURCH** (ekklesia) is a spiritual organism rather than an organizational institution

3

God's Blueprint for the Church: Elders and Deacons

When These Two Ministries Work Together in Harmony:

- 1)—The word of God increases.
- 2)—Disciples multiply.
- 3)—Members are equipped to serve.
- 4)—The church grows.

1 Cor. 14:40—"Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner."

4

Seven Men (Deacons) Chosen to Serve

Acts 6:2-3—"And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.'

Therefore brothers, pick out from among you seven (7) men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.' "

1 Tim. 3:8—Deacons

diakonos = servant, deacon— **diako** = to run errands

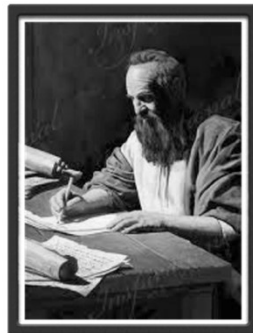
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6

Philippians 1:1

"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons"



7

Aspires and Desires

Rom. 3:10,11—"As it is written: none is righteous, no not one. No one understands, no one seeks for God."

AND YET

1 Tim. 3:1—"It is a trustworthy statement: if any man (continually) aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do."

BECAUSE

Acts 20:28—"...The Holy Spirit has made you overseers."

It's the Holy Spirit who calls and equips a man for ministry.

8

Why Two (2) Greek Words for One (1) Office?

- EPI/SKOPOS— EPI=over; SKOPE=sight.**
 The office of overseer 's function is to OVERSEE the church of God.

- **PRESBUTEROS—ELDER** The office of overseer is held by an aged, a spiritually mature man. A man with wisdom.

- Episkopos— describes what they do.
- Presbuteros— describes who they are.

- **Overseer/Elder/Bishop are used interchangeably.**

10

Elders are Shepherds (Pastors)

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12

Pastors are Under-Shepherds

- **John 10:11**—"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep."

Just as a shepherd leads, feeds and tends his flock of sheep, a **pastor** leads, feeds, and tends to God's flock—His children.

They are under-shepherds of the good shepherd who is Jesus Christ.

13

Leadership Gifts

Eph. 4:11—"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as **pastors and teachers**."

1 Tim. 5:17—"The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."

- The task of those with these leadership gifts is to **equip the saints** so that they may serve the Lord and do the work of ministry in accordance with their spiritual gifts, so that the church may grow.
- While all elders shepherd the flock of God, there may be someone who emerges from among the elders with the dominate gift of **teacher**.

14

It's Imperative! Not Optional!

DEI—δεῖ—MUST BE=Absolutely necessary; mandatory. John 3:7—"...you MUST BE born again."

- **2 Cor. 5:10**—"For we **MUST** all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.."

15

Above Reproach

1 Tim. 3:2—"An overseer **MUST BE ABOVE REPROACH**..."

Above reproach—ἀνεπίληπτον—unrebukable; blameless.

It indicates a kind of innocence in the eyes of the law. It means that no one can legitimately rebuke you or make charges against you that will stick.

Someone may accuse you, but your conduct will eventually acquit you by proving you blameless.

16

Job—Above Reproach/Blameless

- **Job 1:1**—“There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was BLAMELESS, fearing God and turning away from evil.”
- **Job. 1:8**—“...for there is no one like him on the earth, a BLAMELESS and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”

A BLAMELESS person is someone whose life exhibits integrity. Not one area of his life is compromised by sin.

17

Parallel Passages

- **1 Tim. 3:2**—“...husband of one wife...”
- **1Tim 5:9**—“Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty (60) years of age, having been **the wife of one husband.**”

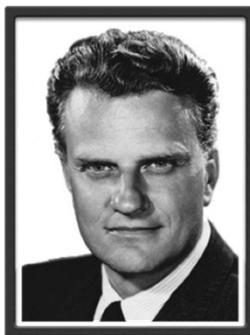
Gynaikos = γυναῖκός = wife; woman

18

Modesto Manifesto

A prudent person doesn't allow himself to be put in compromising situations.

Before a crusade in Modesto California, early in his career, Billy Graham pledged he would not travel, meet, or eat alone with a woman other than his wife.



19

Qualifications for Elders/Overseers

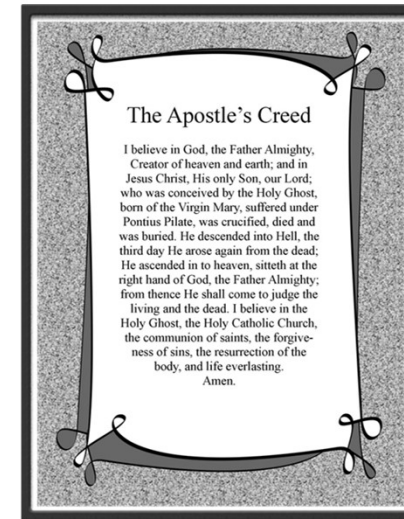
1. **Above reproach and blameless** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).
2. **The husband of one wife** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).
3. **Temperate; sober-minded** (1 Timothy 3:2).
4. **Prudent; Self-controlled** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).
5. **Respectable** (1 Timothy 3:2).
6. **Hospitable** (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).
7. **Able to teach** (1 Timothy 3:2).
8. **Holding firmly to Scripture so as to encourage others and refute false doctrine** (Titus 1:9).
9. **Not given to drunkenness** (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
10. **A gentle man not given to violence** (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
11. **Not quarrelsome or eager to start a fight** (1 Timothy 3:3).
12. **Not greedy or a “lover of money”** (1 Timothy 3:3).
13. **Not seeking after dishonest gain** (Titus 1:7).
14. **A good manager of his own family, whose children obey him and are faithful.** (1 Timothy 3:4–5; Titus 1:6).
15. **Not a new believer** (1 Timothy 3:6).
16. **Having a good reputation with outsiders** (1 Timothy 3:7).
17. **A lover of good, who acts in a way that is upright, holy, and disciplined** (Titus 1:8).

20

Vs. 16—The Mystery of Godliness is Jesus Christ

- **Revealed in the flesh**—God incarnate.
- **Vindicated in the Spirit**—By the power of the Spirit He arose from the dead.
- **Seen by angels**—The angels for the 1st time see Jesus in His bodily form in heaven seated at the right hand of God.
- **Proclaimed among the nations**—The gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Believed on in the world**—All the 4 corners of the earth.
- **Taken up into glory**—Jesus ascended into Heaven bodily.

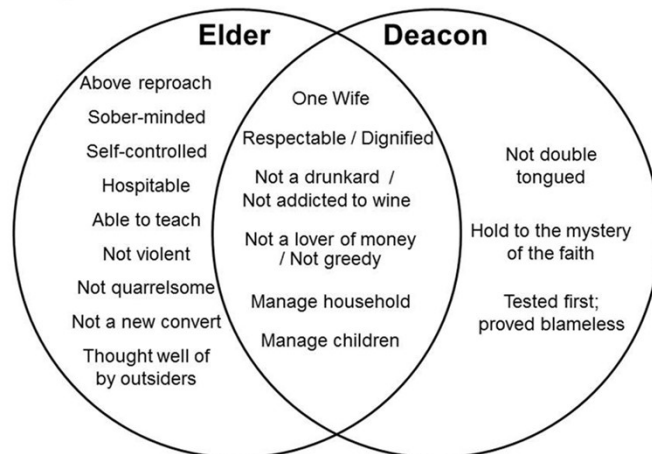
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22

Church Leadership Roles and Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1-13



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23