



SEMESTER 4 - WEEK 4

ECCLESIOLOGY-CHURCH LEADERSHIP [D3 - THE MINISTRY]

Offices:

- Elders/Shepherd/Overseer/Pastor [I Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:4; 14:23]
- Deacons [I Tim 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6]

Function:

- Elders:
 - Shepherd the flock [I Peter 5:2-3]
 - Feeding
 - Protecting
 - Voluntarily
 - Not lording your leadership
 - As an example
 - Guard the doctrine [Acts 20:28-30; I Tim 3:15]
 - Equip the saints for ministry [Eph 4:11-12]
 - Ordain other elders [I Tim 4:14]
 - Pray for the church [James 5:14]
 - Keep watch [Acts 20:28]

- **Deacons:**

- Servants/service [**Acts 6:1-6**]
 - Word group of serving tables, came to include any service of ministry that might be performed to meet the needs of the church.

Qualifications:

- **Elders [I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9]**
 - Desire for the work
 - Above reproach
 - Husband of one wife
 - Sober-minded
 - Self-controlled
 - Respectable
 - Hospitable
 - Able to teach
 - Holding firm to the Word
 - Not a drunkard
 - Not pugnacious
 - Gentle
 - Peaceable
 - Free from the love of money
 - Good manager of his household



- Having faithful children
- Not a new convert
- Not self-willed
- Well thought of by outsiders
- Lover of what is good
- Sensible
- Just
- Holy
- Able to teach/refute
- Deacons [**I Tim 3:8-13**]:
 - Beyond reproach
 - Dignified
 - Not double-tongued
 - Not drunkards
 - Not fond of sordid gain
 - Holding to the mystery of the faith with clear conscience
 - Husband of one wife
 - Good managers of their children and household



- Wives of deacons must be:
 - Dignified
 - Not malicious gossips
 - Temperate
 - Faithful in all things

Additional considerations for elders

- Plurality [**Titus 1:5**]
- Pastor/Elder models
- Unity/unanimity [**I Cor 1:10; Eph 4:3; Phil 1:27; 2:2**]
- Support [**I Tim 5:17**]
- Accusations and spiritual care [**I Tim 5:19-22**]
- Eternal rewards [**I Peter 5:4**]
- Your responsibility
 - Submit/Obey [**Hebrews 13:17**]
 - Be a joy and not burden to shepherd
 - Follow their example [**Hebrews 13:7**]
 - Honor [**I Tim 5:17**]
 - Hold in high esteem [**I Thess 5:12-13**]



MINISTRY PASSAGES

DISCIPLINE 3 [THE MINISTRY]

I Timothy 3:2-7 — ELDER QUALIFICATIONS

- 2 ^aAn overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable,
hospitable, able to teach,
- 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.
- 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all
dignity
- 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of
God?),
- 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred
by the devil.
- 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into
reproach and the snare of the devil.

Hebrews 13:17 — OBEY YOUR LEADERS

- 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an
account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

I Peter 5:1-4 – SHEPHERD THE FLOCK

- 1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
- 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily,
according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
- 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading ^ccrown of glory.



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QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. What most impacted you from this lesson?
2. What are the key components of church leadership to prioritize when choosing a church?
3. If you are not already, please consider a regular practice of praying for your elders.

