

## The Church

# The Officers of a Church

Today we will take a more in depth look at the work and requirements of the Pastors and Deacons as shown in the Scripture.

- I. Relationship of a church and its officers (pastors and deacons)
  - A. Officers are elected to their positions by the congregation.
  - B. Officers are bound to act within the commands of Scripture.
  - C. The congregation also holds the power to dismiss them.
  - D. Do not forget that God is working in this! - Ephesians 4:8,11-12
- II. The Pastor
  - A. Their Leadership
    1. Leads as the executive head of the church (bishop) - I Timothy 3:1
    2. Leads through teaching, training, and discipling (pastor and teacher) - Ephesians 4:11
    3. Leads through example (ruler) - Hebrews 13:7
    4. Leads through service (servant) - 2 Corinthians 4:1,5
  - B. Their Requirements
    1. Should be saved, baptized, and member of their church.
    2. Should be called by God - I Timothy 3:1
    3. Should be ordained - I Timothy 4:14, Titus 1:3
    4. His qualifications are given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9
      - a) blameless - unstained testimony and character
      - b) husband of one wife - not a polygamist or probably even a divorcee
      - c) vigilant - watchful and aware
      - d) sober - sound mind and understanding
      - e) of good behavior - decent, respectful, appropriate
      - f) given to hospitality, lover of hospitality - ready to care for all men
      - g) apt to teach - ready to capable of discipling and training
      - h) not given to wine - not a drunkard or addict
      - i) no striker - not quarrelsome
      - j) not greedy of filthy lucre - seeking fortune
      - k) patient - meek, gentle
      - l) not a brawler - not contentious, but peaceable
      - m) not covetous - not seeking his own gain
      - n) ruleth well his own house - home-life in good order
      - o) not a novice - trained, experienced, capable
      - p) have a good report... - good reputation and testimony in the community
      - q) not self-willed - not determined to have their own way in everything
      - r) not soon angry - not irritable, good temperament
      - s) a lover of good men - keeps company with solid Christians
      - t) just - even, fair
      - u) holy - clean, consecrated, separated
      - v) temperate - in control of themselves, self-denying

- w) holding fast the faithful word - sound doctrinally
- C. Their Work
  1. Preparing himself through study, prayer, consecration - I Timothy 4:12-16
  2. Preaching and teaching - I Timothy 4:2, II Timothy 2:2
  3. Maintain the ordinances (Baptism and Lord's Supper)
  4. Involving church members - II Timothy 2:2, Titus 1:5
  5. Interaction with church members - Acts 20:20, James 1:7
- III. The Deacon
  - A. Their Leadership
    1. Leads through service (servant) - Acts 6:1-7
    2. Deacons are never given ruling authority in the scriptures greater than any other members. Their authority, if any, lies in their service and example.
  - B. Their Requirements
    1. Should be saved, baptized, and member of their church.
    2. Should be elected to the office by the church - Acts 6:2,5
    3. His qualifications are given in I Timothy 3:8-13
      - a) grave - mature, appropriate in behavior and action
      - b) not double tongued - not a hypocrite or a liar
      - c) not given to much wine - drunkard, reveler
      - d) not greedy of filthy lucre - seeking their own fortune
      - e) holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience - grounded, steady
      - f) first be proved - tried and true
      - g) blameless - irreproachable
      - h) Of their wives
        - (1) grave - mature, appropriate in behavior and action
        - (2) not slanderers - accusers, slanderers, gossips, etc.
        - (3) sober - sound mind and understanding
        - (4) faithful in all things - consistent, steadfast
      - i) husbands of one wife - not a polygamist or probably even a divorcee
      - j) ruling their children and their own houses well - home-life in good order