

Biblical Leadership: Elders and Deacons (Part One)

Why do a series on elders and deacons?

Because it's important to understand how Jesus has set up His church.
Because we need to raise up more elders.
Because we need to raise up deacons.
Because we have been learning more about eldership.

What offices has Jesus established for the church? (Phil 1:1)

Overseers and Deacons.

Who are Deacons?

Deacons are women and men who have recognized positions of service in the church.

Who are Overseers?

Overseers (elders-pastors-shepherds) are a team of men who are responsible to Jesus Christ to lead, teach, protect, and equip His church.

Overseers are elders and pastors (Acts 20:17,28).
Overseers are men (1 Tim 2:12)
Overseers are a team of men (Phil 1:1)

How many New Testament churches had elders?

It looks like they all did (Acts 14:21-23)

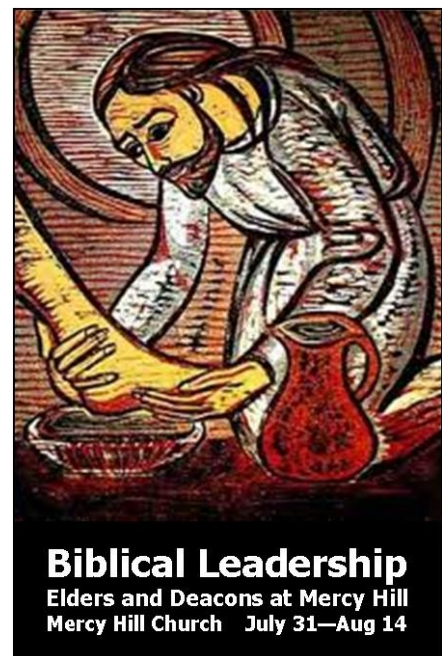
What are elders called to do?

To live exemplary lives (I Tim 3:1-7)
To care for the church (I Peter 5:1-3)
To teach the Bible to the church (I Tim 3:2)
To lead and set policy for the church (I Tim 5:17)
To train and equip other leaders and teachers (Eph 4:11-12)

What does this mean for us?

If your heart is stirred about being an elder, talk to your home group leader or Jerry or Steve.

Pray: for Jerry and Steve; and for God to raise up more elders.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

In the past have you thought about our church having deacons? Why or why not?

Why would Jesus want elders to live such exemplary lives?

How often do you pray for our elders? Will that change after Sunday's teaching?

Do you have a desire to be an elder or deacon? What are you going to do about that desire?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

