

## **Biblical Leadership: Elders and Deacons (Part Three)**

### **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.

The New Testament church had two offices, elder-overseers, and deacons (Phil 1:1).

### **What do deacons do?**

"Deacon" is the Greek word for helper or servant. (Phil 1:1)  
So deacons have official positions of service in the church.  
Luke gives us an example in Acts 6:1-6.

### **Why do we believe deacons are both women and men?**

In 1Tim 3:11 "their wives" can also be translated "women."  
So is Paul talking about deacon's wives, or about women deacons?  
Three reasons we believe it's women deacons:

1. Paul's word choice most naturally refers to women deacons.
2. There's no special requirements for elders' wives.
3. Romans 16:1 probably describes a woman deacon.

### **Why is it important to recognize deacons?**

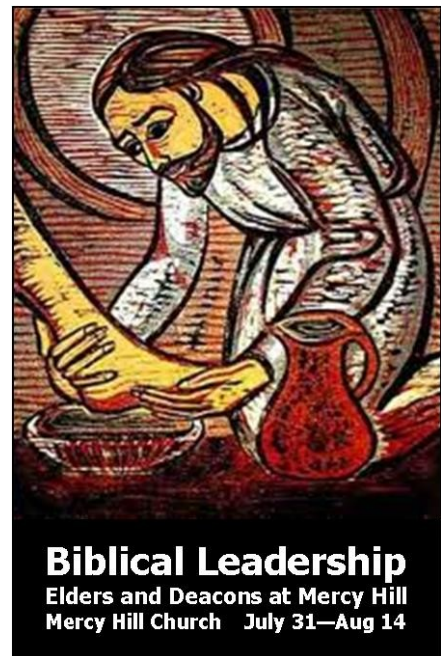
Because the NT sees this as important (Phil 1:1).  
Because this will help us make sure those serving as deacons are qualified (1 Tim 3:8-12).  
Because this will enable those serving as deacons to be appropriately commended and encouraged (1 Tim 3:13).

### **Who are the deacons at Mercy Hill?**

Dave Clark (Worship/High School), Joe & Cindy Garcia (Children), Brandon & Michelle Ramazzina (Junior High), Dave Strouss (Set-up and Take-down), Dee Dee Shipp (Home Group), Ian & Maria Gregg (Home Group), Rick & Yvonne Park (Home Group), Jan Fuller (Home Group).

### **What does this mean for us?**

We are all called to serve (Gal 5:13)  
How can empty hearts become serving hearts? (Mat 10:8)  
If you don't have a serving heart, spend more time receiving from Jesus.



## **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?

How has this three-week series impacted you?

Are you persuaded that deacons can be women or men? Why or why not?

Can you see why it's important to recognize deacons? Can you think of any more reasons why it's important?

Do you have people whom you are committed to serving? How much do you serve your spouse? Children? Friends? Home Group? Other believers? People at work?

Can you see a co-relation between time spent receiving from Jesus, and heart-longing to serve? Why or why not?

What could you do to spend more time receiving from Jesus?

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

