

"I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight" (1 Peter 5:1-2)

- a. Deacons function in a supplementary manner with the elders.

- b. Deacons function in a complementary manner with the elders.

- c. Deacons function in a subsidiary manner under the elders.

"Biblical Deacons"

Selected Scriptures

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In 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Paul outlines the qualifications for the two basic offices in the local church: elders and deacons. These two offices comprise the foundation for stable church leadership. Today we survey what the Bible says about biblical deacons.

1. The word "deacon" means servant.

*"Deacons [diakanous]...let them serve [diakoneitwsan] those who have served [diakonesantes] well"
(1 Timothy 3:8, 10, 13)*

- a. Generically (Ephesians 6:21).

- b. Technically (Philippians 1:1).

2. There are two offices in the church: elders and deacons.

- a. Elders and deacons in the Jerusalem (Palestine) church (Acts 6).
- b. Elders and deacons in the Philippian (Greece) church (Philippians 1:1).
- c. Elders and deacons in the Ephesian (Asia Minor) church (1 Timothy 3:8).

3. The office of deacon arose from practical necessity.

“Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose...” (Acts 6:1)

- a. There is little information regarding their duties.
- b. There is little information regarding their prevalence.
- c. There is little information regarding their ordination.
- d. There is specific information regarding their character.

4. There are specific qualifications for deacons:

“men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine, or fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience... tested...beyond reproach...husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households” (1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12)

“men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (Acts 6:3)

a. Similarities with elder qualifications:

b. Differences with elder qualifications:

5. Deacons function under the supervision of the elders

“select from among you, brethren...whom we may put in charge of this task” (Acts 6:3)