

## Qualifications for Elders and Deacons

I Tim. 3:1-13

### **Role of elders:**

Elder/Overseer/Bishop = synonymous, 5:17, Acts 14:23, 20:17,18, 28, and always a plurality in the NT churches. Role seen in above passages plus, I Pt. 5:17. Elders' job = under shepherds who pastor the flock.

### **Qualifications for being an elder:**

- ❖ Note the qualifications not listed; it's mostly a stress on character!
- ❖ *Above reproach* heads both listings in I Timothy and Titus; the lists clarify what this term entails, using both positives and negatives.
- ❖ *One-woman man* is controversial. Some make it not restrictive enough while others make it far too restrictive. See parallel in 5:9

### **Role of deacons:**

Acts 6:1-6 offers the background and one example of a deacon's duty. Deacons' job = take heat off of elders by addressing physical needs.

### **Qualifications for being a deacon:**

- ❖ Again, the qualifications focus on character; many = same for elders.
- ❖ Women's qualifications appear to interrupt deacons' list. Who are they? Deacons' wives? Deaconesses? Assistants to deacons?



**WHO SHOULD FILL THE POSITIONS  
OF ELDERS AND DEACONS?**

What should we assume about church leadership based on this focus on character qualifications?

What should we realize about ourselves even if we are not an elder or a deacon?