

“What About Church Leadership?”

How were the first Elders selected?

Acts 14:23 NIV

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Where can I find biblical characteristics of an Elder? 1 Timothy 3:1-7

This is a trustworthy saying: “If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position.” So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church? An elder must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall.

What other words are used in Bible translations meaning Elder?

Overseer

Pastor

Shepherd

Bishop

Can an Elder be paid by the congregation?

1 Timothy 5:17-25 NLT

Elders who do their work well should be **respected** and **paid well**, especially those who work hard at both **preaching** and **teaching**. For the Scripture says, “You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.” And in another place, “Those who work deserve their pay!”

KJV

Let the **elders** that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour**, especially they who labour in the **word** and **doctrine**. For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

What are the duties required of an elder? To be **overseers** and caretakers of the church of God.

Acts 20:28 NLT

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

What if the Elders make decisions of which I personally do not approve?

Hebrews 13:17 NIV

*“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as **men** who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”*

KJV

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:17 NIV

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

OBEY

SUBMIT

OBEY

How were the first Deacons selected?

Acts 6:1 NIV

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

Acts 6:2-5 NIV

"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group.

Verses 6-7

and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Where can I find biblical qualifications of a Deacon? 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

What does the word “deacon” mean?

Diakonos (Greek)

Deacon

Minister

Servant (messenger or runner)

What are the duties of a deacon? As assigned by the Elders.

Deacon duties might include: ***Facilities***, ***Benevolence***, ***Finances***, ***Ushers***, ***Logistics***, ***Care Callers***, ***Shut-in Visitation***