

Salt Church
1 Timothy 3:1-13
“Elders & Deacons”
October 4, 2026
Deacon Ordination Service

David & Cindy *(They are home)*

Today is a very special day

- We celebrate Gods goodness in calling some of the men of this church into leadership
- We celebrate Gods holy plan for these men and this body of believers.
- We celebrate Jesus’ love for His bride the church.

Before we get into today’s text I need to remind you of a few things:

- The high standard that qualifies a man for these positions is the high standard for **all believers**
- **For two weeks**, we the elders have been praying for these men.
- **For two weeks** we have asked you the church to reach out to us if any of the men who have been selected should be disqualified.
- **For two weeks** we have asked these men to consider their role as a deacon in this church, the qualifications, the responsibilities, and the time requirements.
- **For over a year** we have watched these men serve faithfully in different ways.

- **You saw them also** for it was your nominations that confirmed what we already knew.
- Of the eight men brought before the church, seven have accepted this noble position.
- We (the elders) also want to acknowledge and encourage others within our body that we are prayerfully watching.
 - We see you but more importantly The Father sees you.
 - Keep loving, keep serving, and when the time is right God will raise you up.

Before today is over, we will install seven men, we will pray over them, and commission them officially to the office of deacon.

- Why?
 - The answer is this:
 - This is how God has designed the church to function
 - Elders and Deacons, were created for the leadership and service to the church.

We will cover as much as we can in the time allotted as it relates to the qualifications and responsibilities for both elders and deacons.

- It is important for these men to know what **they have been called**, as well as it is important for the church to understand the roles and responsibilities for each.

Let's pray together before we get into our text

1 Timothy 3

¹ This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer (elder), he desires a noble work.”

- It is work, lots of work
 - It’s a lot of meetings (morning, noon, and night)
- There is never a week that goes by that someone or some family isn’t in need:
 - There is always someone sick
 - Marriages and families that are in need of council
 - Some type of grumbling
 - Gossip that must be addressed
 - And people that need to be prayed over
- Less often are:
 - Deaths in families
 - Abuse of all kinds
 - Request for help with utilities, groceries, medical bills, rent, and even car repairs
- Even more rare is:
 - Building repair and remodeling
 - Hiring if staff
 - Purchasing of needed and wanted equipment

My point and the Bible’s point is simply this:

- **IT IS WORK!**
 - **Its noble work**

² An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach,

- The Greek word for “reproach” means arrested.
- The idea is that these men are the kind of men who do not break the law of God.
 - It does not say that they are perfect
 - It means that their hearts desire is to be righteous men who serve a holy God.

(side note)

- God knows that there are some people who like to make accusation
 - When it comes to elders God requires two witnesses to bring a charge against an elder (why?)

1 Timothy 5:19-21

¹⁹ Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. ²⁰ But those elders who are sinning, you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. ²¹ I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Why does God require this?

- Because there are always Judas’ within the church
- They look and act like Christians but they are not.
- And two or three witnesses ensure that this is not a personal issue.

the husband of one wife,

- In the Greek it is “one woman man”
- God does not say that divorce disqualifies a man from serving

- However divorce could disqualify a man
 - This is why each man and situation must be thoroughly examined.
 - I believe that if a mans wife cannot trust him, no one can trust him.

self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

- None of these requirements shock us
- We would desire that all of our leaders **within and out of the church** exhibit these attributes.
 - “***Able to teach***” is the main difference between an elder and a deacon.
 - However it is not a mandate that only elders teach
 - If the deacon has the gift of teaching he should teach
 - This is how deacons become elders

³not an excessive drinker,

- No drunks allowed in this group
- At the same time God does not require elders or deacons to completely abstain from alcohol unless it causes someone to sin.
- The goal of the elder or deacon is to bring glory to Gods great name in all that he does.

not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy.

- None of those type of men have any place in leadership

⁴He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. ⁵(If anyone does not

know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God's church?)

- How we treat our wives and children matters to God
- How we manage our 1st ministry determines if we can manage a 2nd ministry.
- **Do you hear God in all of this?**
 - It's not a man's gifts that matter
 - ***Or his level of success***
 - What matters to God is the man's heart
 - How he treats his wife and children matters
 - How he manages his home matters
 - If there is sin and chaos in that man's home and he becomes an elder or a deacon he will allow sin and chaos in the house of the Lord.
 - God says that this cannot happen!

⁶He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil.

- I have seen this play out so many times in the church.
- This very likable guy gets saved and has an unbelievable desire to serve and give testimony to what God has done and is doing in his life.
 - People love it and soon this guy is in some form of leadership
 - Then they find out that this guy has no theological buildup
 - He's never been disciplined

- His wife is treated like a queen at church but treated like a slave at home.
 - **IT TAKES TIME CHURCH!** (we cannot be in a rush to appoint leaders)
 - The fact is that there is no set time, only that this man cannot be new to the faith.
 - Each church will need to examine each man individually.

⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil's trap.

- There is a difference between a good reputation and liked.
- Darkness will never want to hang-out with light
- Darkness will never submit to the light
 - But darkness can agree that a person is not a liar, thief, or a gossip.

DEACONS

⁸ Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect,

- Deacons should be men that we admire
- We respect and admire them for all of the same reasons that we respect and admire elders.

not hypocritical,

- These men are not two faced

- They do not speak against something and then do the very thing they spoke against.
- And they do not speak out of both sides of their mouths.
 - ***Their yes is their yes and their no is their no.***

not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money,

- As with the elders, there is no place within the leadership of the church for greedy drunks.
- Often Deacons are called upon to handle benevolence funds and minister to widows,
 - how shameful it would be if a greedy drunk took advantage of someone in need.

⁹holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

- What does this mean and why doesn't it show up within the elders qualifications?
 - The mystery of the faith is simply this:
 - Why would God be willing to sacrifice His son for sinners?
 - You don't have to understand it but you must believe it and hold on to it in faith with a clear conscience.
 - Another mystery is how God chooses people to be His own while calling man to respond to His calling.
 - Or how about the mystery of the rapture of the church.
 - Deacons are called to hold on to those mysteries
 - Elders are called to teach them.

¹⁰ They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons.

- How do you test men and know that they **are not just studying to pass the test?**
 - You test them without them knowing that they are being tested.
 - You get to know them and their families
 - You spend time with them
 - You watch and listen
 - Are they gossips and grumblers?
 - Do they have a drinking problem?
 - Are they humble, servant leaders at home?
 - Are they honest and blameless?
 - Do they have money problems?
 - How do they treat their wives and children in their home?
 - Are they lazy?
 - All of these questions must be answered before they can be considered for leadership within the church.

There is another very important consideration that may not be on your radar but is very important for the positions of **elder and deacon.**

¹¹ Wives, **likewise**, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything.

- This is a package deal

- The men that are considered are **not required to be married** but if they are married their wives factor into whether or not the invitation to serve is extended.
 - If the wife is not worthy of respect
 - Meaning is she a liar, gossip, grumbler, does not respect her husband **he will be disqualified.**
 - Is she a busy body who is always in every bodies business
 - Does she lack self-control in areas like how she dresses, outburst of anger, the in ability to control her mouth, and how she spends money.
 - **All of these things matter**
 - Is she faithful to her husband and to her Lord in everything that she does?
 - ***Why does she matter?***
 - Because the Bible says that husbands and wives are one.
 - Outside of Jesus, she will have the greatest influence on that man.
 - And that matters!

Moving on:

¹² Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently.

- The same as elders

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- Amen!
 - The Holy Spirit reminds us that serving as a deacon and a deacons wife matter to Jesus and He sees you.

Now before we bring these men forward there is a very important question that must be answered before any man would accept this position of deacon.

- **What do deacons do?**
 - Acts 6 give us a clue as to why this position is so important.

Acts 6

¹ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

- The church nominates
- The elders confirm

4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

So, what do deacons do?

Deacons do whatever needs to be done to keep the elders from having to sacrifice what they have been called to do.

- Elders have been called to preach Gods Word
- Elders have been called ministry of making disciples
- Elders have been called the ministry of prayer

Now you might be thinking:

- Haven't we all been called to help?
 - Yes, we have
 - But clearly 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6 show us the importance of appointing Godly men to this position of deacon.

Deacon comes from a Greek word that means server.

- But what Paul is talking about in 1 Timothy is the office of Deacon.
 - It is an sacred appointment to an office and position
- Deacons do the practical ministry of the church
 - Serving communion

- Parking teams
- Security teams
- Building repair
- Flushing toilets
- Locking doors
- Taking out the trash
- Turning lights off/on
- Adjusting the AC so the power bills aren't through the roof
- Visiting the sick at home and in the hospital when called upon
- Greet people
 - They serve and they serve with joy in their heart because they are serving their Lord and King.

They free the elders to preach, teach, shepherd, and minister the Word of God.

- What happens when elders and deacons do their jobs well?

Acts 6:7

7 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.

- Don't miss that last part
 - The Word of God increased
 - The church grew
 - Even a great number of the priest became obedient to the faith!

Elders please come forward:

Deacons please come forward as I call your name:

Robert Pardue

Ron Smith

Tom Stone

Brent Parnell

Raye Elerson

Ricky DeBlieux

Tony Kelczewski

Elders pray

Pastor Bo closes with a prayer of blessing from Hebrews 13.