

Church: Empowered by Deacons and Elders
(Eph 4:11-16)

The Mission of the Church (God's Mission).

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Mt 28:19-20; cf. Acts 1:8).

God has a church for his mission.

The Church serves for God's glory.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... in order that in everything God may be glorified (1Pt 4:10-11).

God's Leaders are servants.

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

God decides the organization structure.

“To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.” (Phil 1:1).

Members | Deacons | Elders

Big idea: Deacons and Elders empower the body to carry out God's mission.

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Empowered by Deacons & Elders

- 1. God gave us church leaders (vv. 11-13).**
- 2. Life is dangerous (v. 14).**
- 3. Leaders help us grow (Eph 4:15-16; 1Ti 3:1-13).**

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Part of the body and for the body.

- i. God establishes the positions (v. 11a).**
- ii. Deacons/Elders come from the body (v. 12; Acts 6:3).**
- iii. They help the body mature (v. 13).**

How do we get Deacons?

- i. Members nominate Deacons & Elders (Acts 6:3a).**
- ii. They're character is evaluated (Acts 6:3b; 1Ti 3).**
- iii. The Church affirms (votes for) Elders/Deacons.**
- iv. Elders commission them (Acts 6:3c; Act 14:23).**

Why multiple elders/deacons?

- i. All NT churches have multiple elders.**
- ii. Biblical accountability (Gal 6:1-2; 1Co 8:1).**
- iii. Wisdom in advisors (Prov. 11:14; 24:6).**
- iv. No elder/deacon has all the gifts (1Cor 12).**
- v. Burden sharing (Acts 20:28).**

2. Life is dangerous (Eph 4:14).

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The enemy works to stop the church (v. 14).

- i. The church endures persecution (Acts 4).**
- ii. Attacks from the inside (Acts 5).**
- iii. Grumbling and discontentment (Acts 6).**
- iv. Death and persecution (Acts 7).**
- v. The first false teacher – Simon (Acts 8).**

The unity fostered by deacons and elders helps mature us through the waves of life.

3. Leaders help us grow (vv. 15-16).

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We can only impart what we possess (1Ti 3:1-13).

- i. Above reproach.**
- ii. The husband of one wife.**
- iii. Sober-minded, self-controlled, and respectable.**
- iv. Hospitable.**
- v. Not a drunkard, not violent, not quarrelsome.**
- vi. Not a lover of money.**
- vii. He must manage his own household well.**

Deacons and elders help the body work properly.

- i. **We speaking the truth in love (v. 15a).**
- ii. **We mature one another to be more like Christ (v. 15b)**
- iii. **We strengthen our unity with the body (v. 16a).**
- iv. **We are equipped by the body, for the body (v. 16b).**