

Deacons: Servants of the Church

Acts 6:1-7 (p. 1086)

Review:

- Biblical church structure:
Elder-led congregationalism.
- The New Testament identifies two offices for the church: Elders & Deacons

An elder is a qualified man recognized by the congregation to lead the church through teaching the Word, praying, and overseeing its overall affairs.

A deacon is a servant-leader called to handle the practical, material, and logistical needs of the church so that the elders/pastors are freed to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word.

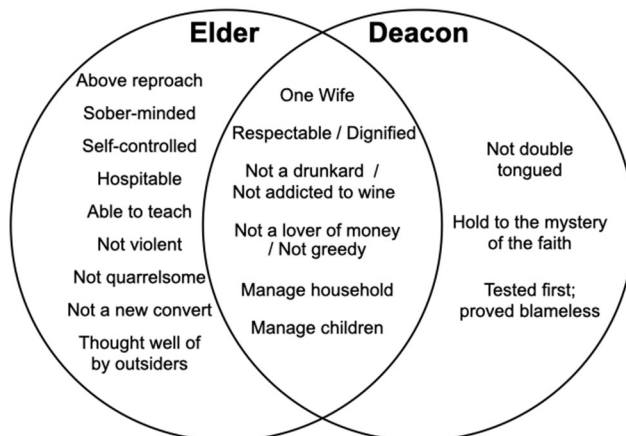
3 Goals for Deacons:

1. Facilitate physical needs.

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.

Church Leadership Roles and Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1-13



2. Guard the unity of the church.

...a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

They may focus on physical needs,
but it is a spiritual office.

Qualifications for deacons:

*as categorized in Finding Faithful Elders and Deacons, by Thabiti Anyabwile

- Full of the Spirit & Wisdom
- Sincere
- Sober & content
- Keeps Hold of the faith
- Tried and true

3. Prioritize the Word of God.

"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The result...

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.