

Church Government

A. Church Officers

- Definition - a church officer is someone who have been _____ recognized as having the right and responsibility to perform certain functions for the benefit of the whole church

- Examples: Pastors, _____, deacons, church treasurer, and ministry staff

1. _____

- Apostles had the authority to speak and write _____ which were the “words of God”.

- Apostles were to have seen Jesus’ _____ with their own eyes. ([Acts 1:22](#))

- An Apostle was specifically commissioned by _____. ([Matthew 10:1-7](#); [Acts 1:24-26](#); [26:16-17](#); [1 Corinthians 15:5-9](#))

2. _____ (Pastor/Overseer/Bishop)

- _____ of elders ([Acts 20:17](#); [Titus 1:5](#))

- Elders are also called pastor, bishops, or _____.

- What does an _____ do? ([1 Timothy 3:4-5](#), [5:17](#), [1 Peter 5:2-5](#); [Hebrews 13:17](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#))

i. _____

ii. Preaching and _____

iii. _____

- _____ for Elders ([1 Timothy 3:2-7](#); [Titus 1:6-9](#))

3. _____ ([1 Timothy 3:8-13](#))

- Deacon means “_____”.

D. Can _____ be church officers?

- Man and women are _____ created in the image of God. ([Genesis 1:27](#))
- Jesus consistently _____ women during his earthly ministry.

- Women have access to all of the _____ gifts, just a men do.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about the New Testament pattern of having multiple elders in one church rather than a single leader?
2. The terms elder, pastor, overseer, and bishop are presented as referring to the same office. How does understanding this affect the way we think about church leadership today?
3. Many of the qualifications for elders focus on character rather than talent or charisma. Why do you think godly character is emphasized so heavily in Scripture?
4. Deacons are primarily servants rather than rulers. Why is servant leadership so important in the life of a healthy church?
5. Why do you think the New Testament seems to place importance on local churches recognizing and appointing their own leaders?
6. How can a church balance respecting leadership authority while also maintaining accountability and humility among leaders?
7. Men and women are equal in value and gifting, while also holding different roles in church leadership. What challenges or questions does this raise for you?