

# Qualifications for the Offices of Elder and Deacon

## ◆ Doctrine

### Elder

- He is able to teach. (I Timothy 3:2)
- He must hold firmly the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9)

### Deacon

- He must hold the revealed truths of the faith with a clear conscience. (I Timothy 3:9)

## ◆ Family

### Elder

- He is the husband of but one wife. (I Timothy 3:2)
- He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family how can he take care of God's church? (I Timothy 3:8-9)
- An elder must be...the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. (Titus 1:6)

### Deacon

- A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. (I Timothy 3:12)

## ◆ Character

### Elder

- Temperate
- Above reproach/blameless
- Self-Controlled
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Loves what is good
- Not given to much wine
- Not violent but gentle
- Not overbearing
- Not quick-tempered
- Not quarrelsome
- Not a lover of money
- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Not a recent convert
- Must have a good reputation with outsiders
- Upright, holy, disciplined (I Timothy 3 and Titus 1)

### Deacon

- Man who is known to be full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom (Acts 6:3)
- Worthy of respect
- Sincere
- Not indulging in much wine
- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Tested (I Timothy 3)

To the office of Deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.

He that fills this office should be blameless in life, sound in the faith, and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.