

“The Importance of Church Leadership”

I Timothy 3:8-13

Sunday Evening, March 24, 2019

Introduction: The church was Jesus’ idea (Matthew 16:18).

- Matthew is the only gospel recording Peter’s confession where the word “church” is found (Matthew 16:18; 18:17). The word “church” is not found in Mark (8:27-30) or Luke’s account (9:18-21).
- The word “church” comes from the Greek work *ekklesia* and means “the called-out ones.”
- The New Testament uses various terms for the church. The “body of Christ is the most frequent.

When Jesus told the disciples that He would build His church, they did not know what the church was. The birthday of the church would come about 30 years later (A.D. 30 on the Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 3).

T. S. Not only was the church Jesus’ idea, but the leadership of the church was Jesus’ idea.

1. He would be the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23).
 2. He would give churches pastors and deacons.
 3. The pastors were assigned their role.
 4. The deacons were assigned their role.
- The first mention of deacons as office holders in the church is in Philippians 1:1.

- In 1 Timothy chapter 3, we read about deacons.

Text: 1 Timothy 3: 8,13

- The word “deacon” comes from the Greek noun *diakonos*.
- The word *diakonos* means to serve or to minister.
- No specific instructions are given in the Bible for what a deacon is to do.
- The Baptist church traditionally has used Acts 6 as referring to deacons.
- The problem with this is that the word “deacon” is not in the Acts 6 passage.
- A second problem is that “the church” at this point would have only been the believers in Jerusalem.
- A third problem with saying the seven men in Acts 6 were the first deacons is that Stephen and Philip are the only ones mentioned elsewhere in Scripture and both were evangelist not deacons.
- This is something we should not press too far. The men in Acts 6 are certainly “prototype” of deacons.
- The office of deacon appears later in time (Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy chapter 3).

THE BIG PICTURE:

- 1. Deacons fulfill a support role to the pastor (Phil. 1:1 and 1 Timothy chapter 3).**

- In Philippians 1:1 and in 1 Timothy 3 the pastor is listed and then deacons are deacons.
- The order is important.

Application: One of the reasons that God has blessed our church through these many years is because deacons have supported the pastors of the church.

Illustration: I have been blessed through the years with deacons who have supported me in prayer and encouragement.

2. Deacons are to serve (1 Timothy 3:10,13).

Application: In our church, deacons can serve by:

1. Supporting the pastor of the church. The pastor, whoever it is, is imperfect. So are the deacons.
2. Serving in the Widow Ministry (Began in 1991).
3. Serving in the Deacon Ministering Program (Began in 1996).
4. Serving in the Senior Member Ministry (Beginning in April).
5. Serving in one of the churches ministries as God has gifted them.

T.S. Deacons should support the pastor, serve as God has gifted them, and be Spirit led.

3. Deacons are to be Spirit led (Acts 6:3).

- The “prototype” of deacons in Acts 6 the Bible says were to be full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3).
- The character traits of deacons in 1 Timothy 3 require men to be Spirit led.

Application: Deacons need to be men who have no agenda other than the agenda the Holy Spirit gives them.

Conclusion: In a moment, we will lay hands on 14 men asking the Holy Spirit to give them an anointing to serve as deacons.

A personal word: I encourage each of you to decide tonight before the laying on of hands to serve well. Then I suggest that before you go to bed tonight that you take your Bible and turn to 1 Timothy 3:13 and in the margin of your Bible write the date (3/24/19), your initials, and then on your knees commit to God that the best you can that you will serve well as a deacon.

The Bible says, "Those who serve well will be rewarded..." (1 Timothy 3:13 NLT).