

Concluding Thoughts – Elders and Deacons

Sermon 5 – 3/11/18

I. Elders and Deacons

A Deacon (*diakonos*) is a minister (servant).
We are all to be servants of God and one another.

II. Why Plurality in the Eldership?

1. Wise counsel in often perplexing situations – Ecc. 4:9-10
2. There is the ability to share to encourage even to deal with one another in a peer relationship.
3. It is the Biblical model – Titus 1:5
How are elders and deacons chosen today? LBCF 26:9 – p. 684

Question: Does the Bible make any kind of distinction between elders?

1 Tim. 5:17

- 1) The persons referenced -- *The Elders who rule well*
- 2) Especially those that labor in the Word and doctrine.

4. To curb Authoritarianism

II. The Congregation and her Elders

Heb. 13:17

Unprofitable FOR YOU!

Heb. 13:7

This presupposes that the overseers will be faithful.
Are they living a life that is exemplary?

III. How to be a Godly Overseer – 1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ **nor as being lords over those entrusted to you**, but **being examples to the flock**; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1. SHEPHERD – “tend the flock of God” –
2. He is to MIX with the people of God.
3. He is to KNOW the sheep.
4. He is to GATHER the sheep.
5. He is to SEARCH for the sheep.
6. He is to CARRY the sheep.

Psalm 23

Isaiah 40:11 -- He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, *And* gently lead those who are with young.

Ezekiel 34

7. He is to be OVER the sheep.
8. He is to FEED the sheep.
9. He is to WATCH for the sheep.
10. He is to HEAL the sheep.