

## Deacons & Elders

- In Biblical leadership, the church is to be led by leaders. It's not a democracy, not communism, not a dictatorship.

### Deacons

- Why were deacons first called?

**Acts 6:1-4** Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 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. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

- They are men and women.
- Must have the same character traits as elders, but not teaching requirements.
- They serve the church WHEREVER NEEDED.

### Elders

- Historically, elders are big givers and important, successful people in town.
- Biblically: elders, overseers, pastors are literally referred to as shepherds, as in the occupation. There is a spiritual connotation as well.

**1 Peter 5:1-5** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

### First Part: "How to lead in God's church."

- Admonition and exhortation ALWAYS starts with the leader.
- Elders must always remember the sufferings of Christ and the cost of our salvation.
- Always looking forward to the glory that is coming!
- Elders are:
  - Shepherds
  - Exercise oversight.
  - Serve willingly, not under compulsion.
  - Called by God.
  - Not for gain, but eagerly.
  - Not dictators; gentle.
  - Lead by example.
- The burden of leadership:

**2 Corinthians 11:28** And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches

**Second Part: “How to follow in God’s church.”**

- The younger (in faith, in age) must submit.

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- **It’s not submission until you disagree.**
- Are you a pleasure to lead?
- Following well is GOOD FOR YOU!