



RED ROCKS CHURCH LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

ELDERS IN THE CHURCH

We understand the New Testament teaches that the church is to be led by a plurality of godly leaders under the oversight and care of elders. It is clear that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the elders are given authority by God to lead the body and see that the church remains on mission in a biblically healthy manner. They are responsible to see that those in the body are being appropriately shepherded, that the body is being fed and cared for through insightful, relevant and accurate biblical teaching, and that the life of the church is being well managed with the assistance of other competent and godly leaders. They are to guard the church body against harmful influences, confronting those who are contradicting biblical truth or who are continuing in patterns of sinful behavior. In doing this, they close potential entrances for the enemy.

In response to the biblical pattern of leadership, members of the body are taught in Scripture to lovingly support their leaders and submit to their leadership, as the elders in turn, submit to the truth and authority of God's word.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS

The Bible has a very clear set of qualifications for an elder and a deacon and their positions in the body of believers. There is a difference between these two terms even though in our society they are quite often used interchangeably. We first see the word that is translated "deacon" used in Acts. "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables" (Acts 6:2). The word "serve" is the Greek word "diakoneo," and it comes from a word that means an attendant, a waiter, or one who ministers to another, and it is from this word that we get the word "deacon." The context here is that there was a dispute in the church in Acts about the way the pooled resources were being allocated, and the apostles were being called upon to arbitrate, and it was a distraction from their ability to give out the gospel. Therefore, a group of seven men were appointed to take care of this task. A deacon, therefore, is one who serves others in the body of born-again believers that make up a local congregation.

The Apostle Paul gives us the qualifications of the elder in his first letter to Timothy. The Greek word that is used for the office of a elder is "episkope," and the word used for the one who holds the office is "episkopos." The elder himself is the superintendent or the officer in general charge or the overseer of the congregation. Our English word "Episcopal" has its basis in the Greek root, which means "knowledge gained by inspection, or seeking out, to look on or to exercise oversight of." Therefore, the bishop or elder was one who was the overseer in charge of the oversight of the local body of believers. This is what we might call a pastor or minister today.

The qualifications of an elder is found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7: " Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome,

not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

The Apostle Paul repeats these qualifications of a Elder (the same Greek word "episkopos" is used) in his letter to Titus. "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict." (Titus 1:5-9).

The qualifications of a deacon are similar to those of an elder/pastor.

Taken from 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and Titus 1:5-9: A deacon is to be in good standing, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, not given to drunkenness, not violent or greedy of money, gentle and not quarrelsome, does not covet and rules his house well, not self-willed but self-controlled, loves what is good and is bold in his faith. His spouse it to be reverent, not given to slander, temperate and faithful in all things.

"Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:8-13). The word translated "deacon" in this passage is the same Greek word "diakoneo" as is used in Acts 6:2, and therefore we know we are talking about the same office.

DIRECTIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Red Rocks Church "elders" are the pastors who shepherd and care for the body of Christ, we refer to these overseers as the "Directional Leadership Team." The "deacons" in turn serve the church and support the elders; we refer to this group of leaders as the "advisory board." The advisory board is a majority of unpaid staff that also maintains accountability.

DEACON EXPECTATIONS

- Participate in all Advisory Board meetings
- Contribute to Red Rocks mission of making Heaven more crowded
- Commit to pursue full devotion to Jesus Christ
- Regularly attend weekend services
- Participate in serving opportunities
- Faithful stewardship of finances in giving to the local church and maintaining that the elders are faithfully

giving and stewarding church finances with integrity. (To insure this integrity Red Rocks Church has hired an unbiased third-party accounting firm to do an annual audit of all finances. This is a voluntary audit is not mandated for the organization, but the elders and deacons have elected to put these additional measures in place. The annual report will highlight the finding of the audit. A full and comprehensive report is available upon request.)

- Involved in healthy and biblical community
- Commit to the Matthew 18 relational conflict resolution process in all relationships