

“Godly Officers in the Church”

I Timothy 3:1-13

INTRODUCTION: There are two and only two “offices” in the New Testament Church: Pastors and Deacons. The local church will function and fulfill its mission only to the extent that these officers exercise their due diligence. Consider each of these two offices as it relates to their qualifications and direct ministry to the church.

- I. The PASTOR OF THE CHURCH (vv.1-7) - “SHEPHERD”
 - A. The GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS of the Pastor. (cf. also Titus 1:5-9)
 1. He must be CALLED TO HIS OFFICE (v.1)
 2. He must show CHARACTER IN HIS LIFE (v.2)
 3. He must show COMPETENCE IN HIS WORK (vv.4-5)
 - B. The PRACTICAL FUNCTIONS of the Pastor (from various Scriptures)
 1. He will be an ADMINISTRATOR for the church (“the office of overseer”)
 2. He will be a SHEPHERD to the church (“Shepherd the flock”)
- II. The DEACON OF THE CHURCH (vv.8-13) - “SERVANT”
 - A. The GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS of the Deacon (similar to the Pastor)
 1. He must be CALLED TO HIS OFFICE (v.10a)
 2. He must SHOW CHARACTER IN HIS LIFE (v.10b)
 3. He must SHOW COMPETENCE IN HIS WORK (Acts 6:3)
 - B. The PRACTICAL FUNCTIONS of the Deacon.
 1. The Deacon is to SERVE WITH HIS WIFE IN MINISTERING CHURCH CARE. (v.11)
 2. The Deacon is to SERVE WITH HIS PASTOR IN MANAGING CHURCH CONFLICT. (Acts 6:1)
 3. The Deacon is to SERVE WITH OTHER DEACONS IN MONITORING CHURCH CONDUCT. (v.15)
 4. The Deacon is to SERVE WITH HIS PASTOR AND OTHER DEACONS TO MENTOR CHURCH COMRADES (new leaders). (v.13)

CONCLUSION: The church offices of Pastor and Deacon are intended to be filled with God-called, Spirit-led, Christ-honoring men of God. The ministry and mission of the church depends on the faithfulness and example of these men. Identify them, support them, follow them! — rrc