

- b. *1Tim 3:8* _____
- c. *1Tim 3:8* _____
- d. *1Tim 3:10* _____
- e. *1Tim 3:10* _____

2. **Domestic Qualifications**

- a. *1Tim 3:12* _____
- b. *1Tim 3:12* _____
- c. *1Tim 3:11* _____

3. **Spiritual Qualifications**

- a. *Ac 6:3* _____
- b. *Ac 6:3* _____
- c. *1Tim 3:8* _____
- d. *1Tim 3:9* _____

It is clear from *Ac 6:1-7*, that **deacons** are both **elected**, (v3 “look you out” = “select by the raising of hands”), by the people, and **appointed**, v3, by the ministry.

The deacon’s task is the oversight of the material things of Church life. Their function is to serve willingly, releasing others to the ministry of the Word. Certain of the first deacons, *Ac 6:1-7*, were later numbered amongst the five ministries, *Eph 4:11*, and this often happens today. The deacons handle finances, (although elders are at liberty to do this if need be, *Ac 4:37*), and the daily details of Church life. They are not just good business men or women, but they are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, *Ac 6:3*.

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Twenty-four: Ministries in the Church

MINISTRIES OF ELDERS AND DEACONS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

We emphasise two things:

- a. The New Testament pattern cannot be “legislated” overnight in a Local Church that has been functioning under some other form of government. It is rather a pattern for us to work toward, and something to be instituted in God’s timing.
- b. It is not necessary to “call” people “elders” in order to have the function of eldership carried out in a Local Church. It is less important to call men “elders” than it is to have the **function** of eldership carried out in a Local Church.

There are many vitally important ministries which operate in the Local Church to bring it to maturity. These are listed in *Rom 12:4-8*, *1Cor 12:7-10,28*. In this study, however, we deal with the two specialised Local Church ministries in the New Testament – the **Elder** and the **Deacon**.

Elders (Greek presbuteros)

An elder is a man of spiritual maturity and experience who is recognised as a spiritual overseer in the Local Church. Three words are used to describe this ministry:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder, Presbyter Bishop | } | <p>both from the same Greek word and emphasise the position and maturity. (Lit. “overseer”) describes the ministry in terms of its function of oversight.</p> |
|---|---|---|

Paul called the **elders**, *Ac 20:17*, and said to them, “Take heed to yourselves and to all the **flock** among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, (bishops - episkopos), to **shepherd** (pastor) the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood, *Ac 20:28*. The same truths are repeated in *1Pet 5:1,2*.

From these readings we see that **elders** are to be the **overseers** (bishops) who **shepherd or pastor** the Local Church.

QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

Read *1Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9* and complete the following:

1. **Moral Qualifications** (Using NKJV, - do your best.)
 - a. *1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:6* _____
 - b. *1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:8* _____
 - c. *1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:8* _____
 - d. *1Tim 3:2* _____
 - e. *1Tim 3:3; Tit 1:7* _____
 - f. *1Tim 3:3; Tit 1:7* _____
 - g. *1Tim 3:3; Tit 1:7* _____
 - h. *1Tim 3:3* _____
 - i. *1Tim 3:3; Tit 1:7* _____
 - j. *1Tim 3:3* _____
 - k. *Tit 1:7* _____

2. **Domestic Qualifications**
 - a. *1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:6* _____
 - b. *1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:8* _____
 - c. *1Tim 3:4* _____
 - d. *1Tim 3:4* _____

3. **Spiritual Qualifications**
 - a. *1Tim 3:2* _____
 - b. *1Tim 3:5* _____
 - c. *1Tim 3:6* _____

- d. *1Tim 3:7* _____
- e. *Tit 1:8* _____
- f. *Tit 1:8* _____
- g. *Tit 1:9* _____
- h. *Tit 1:9* _____

In the early Church, elders were appointed by the apostles, and never elected by popular vote. They were established in the Church after prayer and the laying on of hands. *Ac 14:23; Tit 1:5*.

Each Local Church in the N. T. was self governing and this government rested with the elders. No Local Church is described as having only one elder – it is always plural.

When one of the five “ascension gift ministries”, *Eph 4:11*, is part of the Local Church in a particular place, his/her ministry is recognised and he/she is given a place of authority amongst the elders. *1Pet 5:1-4*.

THE MINISTRY OF AN ELDER/OVERSEER/SHEPHERD

1. He has the compassion of a shepherd’s heart, *Mat 9:36; Jn 10:11*.
2. He feeds the sheep, *Ac 20:28; 1Pet 5:2; Is 40:11; Ezek 34:2*.
3. He rules the Local Church in love, *1Tim 5:17; 1Thes 5:12,13; Rom 12:8*.
4. He is an example/pattern of Christian living, *1Pet 5:3; Heb 13:7*.
5. He leads his people, *Jn 10:4; Ps 23:2,3*.
6. He cares for the Church in a personal way, *1Tim 3:5; Heb 13:17; Jn 10:3,4*.
7. He corrects wrong-doing, *1Thes 5:12; Ac 20:31; Col 1:28*.
8. He prays the prayer of faith for the sick, *Jam 5:14,15*.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS – 1Tim 3:8-13

1. **Moral Qualifications:** (Use NKJV, versions vary)
 - a. *1Tim 3:8* _____