

A Biblical Theology of Deacons

V: Elders

MEFC Oct 24 & 31, 2021

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Acts 20:17-38

1 Tim 3:1-7

1 Tim 5:17-25

Titus 1:5-9

1 Peter 5:1-4

Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24

James 5:14-15

Eph 4:11ff

Elders: 3 biblical images

- (1) Elder in Christ-like character (Greek *presbyteros*)

- (2) Overseer of God's household (Greek *episkopos*; Manager / Steward / Ruler)

- (3) Shepherd of God's flock

Elders / Overseers / Pastors

- 1. Plurality of leadership (shared leadership)

- 2. Qualified leadership (spiritual character; male only)

- 3. Nature of leadership is *pastoral oversight*, 'servants' who:

Know	Feed	Lead (Care & Equip)	Protect
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Distinctions between Elders and Deacons

- 1. Elders have priority of office, then Deacons

- 2. Elders provide pastoral oversight while Deacons assist Elders to serve the church

- 3. Elders are required to start a church; Deacons are important for a well-ordered church

- 4. Overseers must teach (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:9); but Deacons are not required to teach

- 5. Deacon's service may involve wives (1 Tim 3:11), but Elders leadership does not (1 Tim 2)