

# Lesson 9

## Pastors and Deacons

There are two offices in a New Testament church, pastors and deacons. There were three different names used in the New Testament to describe the office we call pastor. They were *elder*, *bishop* and *pastor*.

### The Elder

In the New Testament the actual name for the office is *elder*. The term *elder* signifies maturity and the wisdom, knowledge and experience that goes with maturity. The elders were to be held in high esteem by the people.

**Elders were ordained in every church.**

**Acts 14:23:**

And when they had \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ in every \_\_\_\_\_, and had \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, they commended them to the \_\_\_\_\_, on whom they \_\_\_\_\_.

**Elders were to be honored.**

**1 Timothy 5:17:**

Let the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ well be counted \_\_\_\_\_ of double \_\_\_\_\_, especially they who \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Elders were not to be falsely accused.**

**1 Timothy 5:19:**

Against an \_\_\_\_\_ receive not an \_\_\_\_\_, but before \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses.

**Assignment:** Read I Peter chapter 5 and answer these questions.

1. To whom was Peter writing? v. 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the elders to do to the flock? v.2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the elders to take? v.2 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What were the elders not to be? v.3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What will the elders receive when the chief Shepherd appears? v.4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### The Bishop

The word *bishop* describes the work of an elder. *Bishop* means *overseer* or *superintendent*. The pastor is the *overseer* of the church. In the New Testament a bishop was never overseer of more than one church.

**A bishop was one of the offices of a church.**

**1 Timothy 3:1:**

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ saying, If a man \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_, he desireth a \_\_\_\_\_ work.

**A bishop was to be the overseer of a church.**

**Acts 20:28:**

Take heed therefore unto \_\_\_\_\_, and to all the \_\_\_\_\_, over the which the \_\_\_\_\_ hath made you \_\_\_\_\_ [the word for bishop], to \_\_\_\_\_ [the word for pastor] the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, which he hath \_\_\_\_\_ with his own \_\_\_\_\_.

**A Bishop had to be qualified.**

**Titus 1:7:**

For a \_\_\_\_\_ must be \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; not \_\_\_\_\_, not soon \_\_\_\_\_, not given to \_\_\_\_\_, no \_\_\_\_\_, not given to \_\_\_\_\_;

**Assignment:** Read Titus 1:5-9 and answer these questions.

1. What was Titus to ordain in every city? v.5 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Of what must a pastor's children not be accused? v.6 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What must a bishop be? v.7 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What two things should a pastor love? v.8
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is a pastor to use to convince gainsayers? v.9 \_\_\_\_\_

**The Pastor**

*Pastor* is the word we use most often today to designate the New Testament office of *elder*. Pastor is a descriptive word that simply means *shepherd*. As a shepherd watches over his flock, leads it, feeds it and protects it, so a pastor is to do to the flock that the Holy Spirit has placed in his care.

**The pastor is to feed the flock.**

**1 Peter 5:2:**

\_\_\_\_\_ [the word for shepherd or pastor] the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which is among you, taking the \_\_\_\_\_

[the word for bishop] thereof, not by \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_; not for filthy \_\_\_\_\_, but of a ready \_\_\_\_\_;

**Christ made some pastors.**

**Ephesians 4:11:**

And he gave some, \_\_\_\_\_; and some, \_\_\_\_\_; and some, \_\_\_\_\_; and some, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_;

**Assignment:** Read Acts 20:17 and 28-38 and answer these questions.

1. To whom was Paul speaking? v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who made the elders to be overseer? v.28 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the elders to feed? v.28 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What would come in among them? v.29 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do men arise among us speaking perverse things? v.30 \_\_\_\_\_

**Deacons**

The word *deacon* means *servant*. The deacons were first placed in the church at Jerusalem in Acts 6. They were elected by the church to take care of a material problem that had arisen in the church so that the Apostles would not have to leave studying the Word and praying. Deacons today serve the same purpose. They are elected by the church and placed over a material problem so that the pastor can give himself to studying the Word and praying.

**Deacon was one of the New Testament offices.**

**Philippians 1:1:**

Paul and Timotheus, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, to all the \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_;

**Deacons must be qualified.**

**1 Timothy 3:8:**

Likewise must the \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, not given to much \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ lucre;

**Assignment:** Read Acts 6:1-8 and answer these questions.

1. What problem arose in the church? v. 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many men did they appoint over the business of serving tables?  
v.3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. To what two things were the apostles to give themselves continually?  
v.4  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the apostles do to them after they had prayed? v.6  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What three things happened as a result of choosing the deacons? v.7  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Workers**

While there are only two Scriptural offices in a church, every church has a host of other workers that are needed to carry on the work. There are teachers, treasurers, music directors, ushers and many others. No church could survive long without helpers like these.

**Many laborers are not pastors or deacons.**

**Philippians 4:3:**

And I entreat thee also, true \_\_\_\_\_, help those \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ with me in the \_\_\_\_\_, with Clement also, and with other my \_\_\_\_\_ whose \_\_\_\_\_ are in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Women are church workers**

**Romans 16:1:**

I commend unto you Phebe our \_\_\_\_\_, which is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ which is at Cenckrea.

**Assignment:** Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and answer these questions.

1. List the five positions the Lord gave, v. 11  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
(4) \_\_\_\_\_  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What three things were they to accomplish? v.12  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Of whom are we to have knowledge? v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are we not to be? v.14 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is the head? v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

**DO THE TEST FOR LESSON 9**