

## OFFICES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

## I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The church belongs to Christ.  
Matthew 16:18 Jesus said "I will build MY church"
- B. Jesus is the head of the church.  
Colossians 1:18 sole authority is in one person--Jesus  
Ephesians 1:22,23 Jesus is head over all things to the church--whatever it does
- C. Jesus is the foundation of the church.  
1Corinthians 3:11 Jesus is the foundation--that fact He is the Messiah, the Son of God
- D. Christ has all authority in heaven and earth.  
Matthew 28:18 any authority man has comes originally from Jesus
- E. Christ has given gifts to the church.  
Ephesians 4:7,11-13 the gifts are the ministries of apostles, prophets, preachers, elders
- F. Apostles and prophets (part of the foundation).  
Ephesians 2:20 they are the ones sitting on thrones over the church (Mt. 19:28)  
Ephesians 3:5 could be a reference to NT prophets in the early church

## II. APOSTLES.

- A. Directly commissioned by Christ.  
Matthew 10:5 the qualifications cannot be met today
- B. Possessed supernatural gifts.  
Matthew 10:8 the age of miracles ceased about 100AD
- C. Necessary to have been with Jesus.  
Acts 1:22 this why Paul is "one borne out of due season" he was not with Jesus
- D. Authority covered the whole world.  
Matthew 28:19 elders, deacons or preachers do not have this authority today

## III. PROPHETS.

- A. After the apostles.  
1Corinthians 12:28 important in their role in the early church
- B. Example of Agabus.  
Acts 11:28 could foretell future events as well as preach the word
- C. Example of women prophets.  
Acts 21:9,10 the gift was not limited to men

## IV. ELDERS.

- A. Three important Greek words:
1. *Presbuteros* is translated as presbyter or elder.
  2. *Episkopos* is translated as bishop or overseer.
  3. *Poimen* is translated as pastor or shepherd.
- B. All three words used.  
Acts 20:17,28 Paul's meeting with the Ephesian elders at Miletus  
1Peter 5:1,2 Peter talks about how to be a good elder
- C. Two words used.  
Titus 1:5-7 Paul gives Titus a list of qualifications for those who would be elders

D. NT examples of elders show a plurality in each congregation not just one. The preacher serves under the elders, and the elders' authority is only over the congregation they serve in.

E. The Work of Elders:

1. A watchman.

Acts 20:28-31 to guard the flock against false doctrine

Hebrews 13:17 elders will give an account to God for the souls under their care

2. Mature the church.

Ephesians 4:11-16 elders are to help the church grow by teaching the members

3. Discipline.

1Thessalonians 5:12-15 elders must handle problems in the body

4. Shepherd.

1Peter 5:1-3 showing love and support is part of their ministry

6. Prayers for the sick.

James 5:13-18 visiting and praying for those who are ill is part of their ministry

F. The Qualifications of Elders:

1. Scripture texts are 1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9:

2. "Negative" qualifications:

a. Without reproach.

e. Not a lover of money.

b. Not a brawler.

f. Not a novice.

c. Not a striker.

g. Not soon angry.

d. Not contentious.

h. Not self-willed.

3. "Positive" qualifications:

a. Husband of one wife.

h. Rules well his own house.

b. Temperate.

i. Good testimony from without.

c. Sober-minded.

j. Self-controlled.

d. Orderly.

k. Holy.

e. Given to hospitality.

l. Lover of good.

f. Apt to teach.

m. Just.

g. Gentle.

n. Having children that believe.

F. The congregation's responsibility toward the Elders:

1. Esteem them.

1Thessalonians 5:12,13 respect them, they have a very difficult job

2. Be subject to them.

Hebrews 13:17 obey them in matters of opinion and unity in the body

3. Do not accuse them.

1Timothy 5:19 speak positively and do not accuse without knowledge

4. Support them.

1Tim. 5:17,18 give them encouragement as needed

## V. DEACONS.

A. The word *deacon* is a transliteration from the Greek, *diakonos*. The word means, a servant or minister who executes the commands of another.

B. More than one.

Philippians 1:1 it is best have more than 1 elder and 1 deacon in a congregation

C. Special servants.

1Timothy 3:8-13 deacons serve the elders in doing various tasks in the body

D. The Work of Deacons:

1. To serve.  
Acts 6:1-6 the is the example of the calling of the first special servants (deacons)
2. Specific tasks.  
Acts 6:3 notice that the "deacons" had a specific job to do--so should deacons today

E. The Qualifications of Deacons:

1. See 1Tim. 3:8-10,12,13.
2. "Negative" qualifications:
  - a. Not double-tongued.
  - b. Not given to much wine.
  - c. Not greedy of filthy lucre.
3. "Positive" qualifications:
  - a. Grave (serious).
  - b. Holding the mystery of the faith, in a pure conscience.
  - c. Husband of one wife.
  - d. Ruling his children and house well.
  - e. They are to first be proved.

VI. **EVANGELISTS.**

A. Three important Greek words:

1. *Euangelists* is translated evangelist and means a bringer of good tidings.
2. *Kerux* is translated preacher and means a herald.
3. *Kerusso* is translated preach and means to be a herald, to proclaim after the manner of a herald, to publish, or proclaim openly.

B. The Work of Evangelists:

1. Preach, evangelize.  
2Timothy 4:2 the main work of the preacher is to preach the word--instruct
2. Edify local church.  
Ephesians 4:11-16 the preacher serves the brethren more than he does the lost
3. Appoint elders.  
Titus 1:5 the evangelist is to be an organizer and set things in order by the Bible
4. Defend the faith.  
1Timothy 1:3 the preacher must oppose error and preach the truth against falsehood  
Titus 1:10-13 the preacher must oppose those who try and profit off of falsehood
5. Train others.  
2Timothy 2:2 teach so that those taught and can teach others

C. The Qualifications of Evangelists:

1. Diligent, not lazy.  
1Timothy 4:15 "take pains" which means to labor hard  
2Timothy 2:15 be considered by others as a workman--handling the word properly
2. An example to believers.  
1Timothy 4:12 the lifestyle should be exemplarily to others--the prophets were pure
3. Takes heed to himself.  
1Timothy 4:16 give attention to detail in lifestyle to save yourself and others
4. Takes heed to teaching.  
1Timothy 4:16 give attention to detail in the teachings to save yourself and others
5. Pure.  
1Timothy 5:22 stay as free from sin as possible--hypocrisy destroys effectiveness
6. Steadfast in the faith, loyal to the truth.

- D. The Support of Evangelists:
  - 1. Brethren are indebted to share the wealth.  
Romans 15:27 receiving spiritual things means giving material things in return
  - 2. Preachers may receive money for their work.  
1Corinthians 9:1-14 those who proclaim the gospel may get their living from the gospel
  - 3. Share with one who teaches.  
Galatians 6:6 the one who is taught is to share all things with their teacher
- E. Clergy and laity:
  - 1. There are no special titles or clothing to be worn for preachers.
  - 2. There is no difference between the clergy or the laity in the scriptures:
    - a. *Kleroo* (root word for clergy) is found in Eph. 1:11 and refers to all Christians.
    - b. *Laos* (root word for laity) is found in 1Pet. 2:9 and refers to all Christians.

**VII. TEACHERS.**

- A. Teachers of the word of God are an important part of the church.
- B. Examples of those who teach:
  - 1. Along with prophets.  
Acts 13:1 teachers are important in sharing the gospel with brethren and the lost
  - 2. Teachers.  
1Corinthians 12:28,29 teachers are important in the overall structure of the church
  - 3. Exercise your gift.  
Romans 12:7 those who have the gift of teaching are to use it!
- C. Special instructions:
  - 1. Not many are to be teachers.  
James 3:1 those who cannot control their tongue should not teach--hypocrisy kills!
  - 2. Not hypocrites.  
Romans 2:20 teachers are to live what they teach--hypocrisy kills the message
  - 3. Understand the word.  
1Timothy 1:7 teachers are to be prepared through prayer, study, and meditation
  - 4. Won't tickle ears.  
2Timothy 4:3 teachers must teach what people need to hear--not what they want to hear

**VIII. NOTES.**

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### IX. MATCHING.

Based on this lesson and the scriptures discussed match the following phrase or central idea on the left with the appropriate scripture on the right. You may wish to review all the scriptures listed above before taking this test.

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| <u>  E  </u> | 1. An elder is a watchman of the flock.  | A. 2Tim. 4:2.          |
| <u>  C  </u> | 2. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.          | B. 2Tim. 2:2.          |
| <u>  H  </u> | 3. Qualifications for deacons.           | C. 1Peter 5:1-5.       |
| <u>  A  </u> | 4. Preach the word in and out of season. | D. James 3:1.          |
| <u>  J  </u> | 5. Apostles' authority is world-wide.    | E. Acts 20:28-31.      |
| <u>  G  </u> | 6. A New Testament prophet.              | F. Acts 6:1-6.         |
| <u>  B  </u> | 7. Preachers train others to teach.      | G. Acts 11:28.         |
| <u>  D  </u> | 8. Not many should be teachers.          | H. 1Tim. 3:8-10,12,13. |
| <u>  I  </u> | 9. Preachers may be paid for their work. | I. 1Cor. 9:1-14.       |
| <u>  F  </u> | 10. The calling of the first deacons.    | J. Mt. 28:19.          |