

“The Biblical Qualifications of the Elder and Deacon”

Intro: The only form of church government the Scripture presents is a “Theocracy.” The church is divinely governed by _____ for He alone purchased her with His blood. He is the only _____ of the church and rightfully and justly exercises supreme _____ governing her as Savior and Lord.

- A. As the church grew the care and oversight of the local church was delegated to _____ who exercised their authority in _____.
- B. There is another official office within the church, it is the office of _____.
- C. In the Theocratic form of church government, Christ, being the Head of the church, continually governs His church by ordaining the leadership. So, it is our high aim to _____ those whom Christ has chosen to serve as an elder or deacon and to faithfully affirm them as leaders in His church.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

- I. The Biblical _____ of the elder and deacon.
 - A. Men whom God has ordained to be an elder “_____” to the office.
 - 1. “Aspires” means “to _____ after, desire, _____ for, be ambitious toward, yet in a benign, gentle and _____ manner.”
 - 2. One who is called of God to be an _____ aspires to the office by doing the _____ of that ministry _____ recognition or title.
 - B. They must “be _____.”
 - 1. He must be one who has _____ with which a true or standing charge could be based _____ him. In all areas of his life he must be _____.
 - C. They must be “the _____ of one _____.”
 - 1. His _____ as demonstrated in his faithfulness to his spouse is a reflection of the quality of his relationship with God.
 - 2. The phrase “be the husband of one wife” means that he is to _____ be a one woman man. His marital status is not the point but that no matter his marital status he must be morally _____.
 - D. They must be “_____.”
 - 1. Temperate is the state of mind which is free from the excessive influence of passion, lust, or emotion which would bring him to react contrary to the nature of the _____ which is not reactionary but always _____.
 - E. They must be “_____.”
 - 1. It is to be of sound mind, serious and self-disciplined in one’s freedom, _____ - _____ in all passions and desires.
 - F. He must be “_____.”
 - G. He must be “_____.”
 - H. He must be able to _____.

1. This one is an exception which we do not understand to apply to the deacon for it speaks of an _____ rather than moral quality.

I. They cannot be _____ to wine.

1. We believe that any _____ upon any mind-altering substance would prohibit a man from serving in such an office.

J. They cannot be _____.

1. They cannot be a _____, a striker, or even one who _____ with his words.

K. They must be _____.

1. It carries with it the idea of _____ one's rights but demonstrating grace.

L. They must be _____.

M. They must be _____ from the love of _____.

N. He must be one who _____ his household well, keeping his children under control with dignity.

1. The word "manages" denotes that He is to be the _____ of his home and "well" refers to the _____ and quality of his household management.

2. He must _____ his children in line. Not meaning that they will never get out of line but that when they do that he will correct them and get them _____.

3. "With all dignity" means with "_____ " or "stateliness."

O. He is " _____ " to be "a _____ convert."

P. They "must have a _____ with those outside the church."

Q. They "must be men of _____."

R. They are not to be " _____-tongued."

S. They must _____ "to the mystery of the _____ with a clear conscience."

T. They must "be _____ " _____ being appointed.

U. Their _____ must "be _____." Like the men who would hold such an office, their wives must not be "malicious gossips, but temperate, _____ in all things."

II. Those who serve well as deacons _____ two things.

A. A _____ standing.

B. Great confidence in their _____ in Christ Jesus.

Closing: Let us again consider 1 Timothy 5:21-22 that we might keep this charge at the forefront of our minds as we seek to appoint men to such offices: "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to _____ these without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality. Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; _____ free from sin."