“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 ___________ 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 ___________.

Church Government #3 1 Timothy 3:1-13 02.05.06
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.”