

Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

REVIEW

Week 1:

Elders in OT and NT scripture

Background

- Jewish roots
- associated priests and teachers
- not a continuation of OT priest
- new in the early church

Function in the early church

- General oversight, direction (Acts 20)
- Teaching scripture, boundaries of doctrine (1 Tim, Heb 13)
- Encourage, protect, be example to the church (1 Pet, Titus)

Week 2:

Deacons in the NT

Function in the early church

- Appears to be born out of the need to delegate responsibilities (Acts 6)
- manage ministry works of the church, free apostles to word
- servants of the gospel (widely used term)
- assist and provide care for...

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SYNOPSIS

ELDERS

- teachers
- leaders
- directors
- governors
- boundaries (doctrines)
- protectors
- examples

DEACONS

- ministry leaders
- servers
- ministers
- care providers
- encouragers
- examples

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in the **New Testament**

The Early Church - a snapshot

Why were both groups (elders and deacons) needed?

The Church Today - a reflection

Are both groups (elders and deacons) still needed?

In what way has our context changed?

What facets are still the same?

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Week 3
The Church
Then and Now

Historical Context for the Early Church

- Judaism, Mosaic law
- 1000+ years of animal sacrifice and law
- salvation = redemption from oppression
- sanctification through ritual
- a people “set apart”, distinct from pagan or foreign surrounding cultures

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Week 3 The Church Then and Now

Historical Context for the Early Church

- Mosaic law
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A New Gospel for the Early Church

- Gal 3:10-12** • wholesale recasting of LAW, extreme doctrinal redirection
- Heb 10:3-10** • sacrifices, practices of self identification abolished
- Gal 5:2-6**
- Gal 2:20-21** • salvation redefined
- 2 Cor 3:15-18** • "growing in Christ" a completely new and abstract concept
- Eph 2:11-13** • two have been made one

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The "New Gospel" for the Early Church:

- wholesale recasting of law, extreme doctrinal redirection
- abolished long standing rituals of sacrifice and identification
- redefined what was meant by "salvation"
- replaced "purification" with "sanctification"
- claimed "they" could be saved just like "us"

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THE ELDERS WORK

Early Church

- wholesale recasting of law
- abolished long standing rituals
- salvation redefined
- sanctification not purification
- grace open to all

Today

- Sound and consistent preaching and teaching
- discernment of rituals and religious practices
- salvation affirmed (point 1)
- scriptural implications for spiritual maturity of believers
- equal and freely distributed grace to “them”

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	ELDERS	DEACONS
EARLY CHURCH	<p>Teach scripture so that believers had a clear understanding of the (new) gospel of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Biggest challenge: HISTORICAL CONTEXT</p>	<p>Take ownership of the work of ministry (expression of the gospel), build each other up, gospel lived out in service</p> <p>Biggest challenge: CULTURAL CONTEXT</p>
TODAY	<p>Continue to provide leadership and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ - both core gospel and implications</p> <p>Biggest challenge: CULTURAL CONTEXT</p>	<p>Take ownership of the work of ministry (expression of the gospel), build each other up, gospel lived out in service</p> <p>Biggest challenge: HISTORICAL CONTEXT</p>

