

# Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

## REVIEW

### Week 1:

#### Elders

Old testament background

Jewish roots for church

Association with priests  
and teachers of the law

Teaching

General oversight and  
direction of the church

Encourage, protect

Examples

### Week 2:

#### Deacons

New office for the early  
church

born out of need to  
delegate responsibilities

manage ministry works  
of the church

servants of the gospel

assisting in providing  
care for...

Examples

### Week 3:

#### Then and Now

Why were elders needed  
in the early church

Are they still needed  
today

Cultural / historical  
pressures

A model for today?

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### Tonight:

Paul's letter to Timothy

Qualifications of elders and deacons

Our current-day expectations of elders and deacons (homework)

### Next Week (last)

Scenarios, discussion and thoughts on moving ahead

1 TIMOTHY 3

Context  
(historical and  
literary)

Paul to Timothy in Ephesus

Historical context

1 Tim 1:3-7

- the church was aimless and wandering (opinion driven)

Literary context

1 Tim 2

- worship gatherings suffering focus and misguided atmosphere

1 Tim 5-6

- practical needs, organization, advice from mentor to student
- boundaries, framework for the church, setting things right

Qualification - 1 Timothy 3

**ELDERS - 3:2-7**

- above reproach, good reputation
- one wife
- temperate, self controlled
- respectable, hospitable
- able to teach
- no drunkenness
- not violent, quarrelsome
- not greedy
- respectable family
- not young in faith

**DEACONS - 3:8-10, 12**

- worthy or respect
- sincere
- no drunkenness
- no dishonest gain
- holds to faith with clear conscience
- tested before serving
- one wife
- respectable family

**DESCRIPTIVE TEXT**

Passage of text that describes something for us without any explicit command for us to respond to.

**PRESCRIPTIVE TEXT**

Passage of text that includes instruction or a commandment to do something with what has been taught.

We must always be conscious to not commit the mistake of text manipulation - forcing the text to serve our own purposes rather than recognizing its original intended purpose.

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in the **New Testament**

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**Discussion and Questions:**