

The Church of the Bible

The Organization of the Church

- I. Christ – The Chief Cornerstone
 - A. He is the Foundation of the church.
 - 1. Matthew 16:16-18 – The bedrock of the church.
 - 2. Ephesians 2:19-22 – The chief cornerstone of the building.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 3:9-11 – No other foundation (cf. Acts 4:11-12).
 - B. He is the Bridegroom of the bride.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 11:2 – Espoused to Christ.
 - 2. Ephesians 5:22-33 – He is the husband (cf. Rom. 7:1-4).
 - 3. Revelation 19:5-9 – Awaiting the marriage (cf. 21:2, 9-27; John 14:1-6).
 - C. He is the Head of the body.
 - 1. Romans 12:4-5 – The church is a body (cf. 1 Corinthians 12).
 - 2. Colossians 1:18 – Head of the body, the church (cf. 1:24).
 - 3. Ephesians 1:22-23 – Head of the church, the body (cf. Col. 2:19).
 - 4. Ephesians 4:4 – One head, one body (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 20; Col. 3:15).
 - D. He is the King of the kingdom.
 - 1. Daniel 7:13-14 – Given the kingdom after His ascension (cf. Acts 1:9).
 - 2. Acts 2:29-36 – Began reigning on the Day of Pentecost (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12).
 - 3. 1 Timothy 6:13-16 – King of kings and Lord of lords (cf. Rev. 19:16).
 - E. He is the Captain of the army.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 – The church is an army of soldiers (cf. 4:6-8).
 - 2. Hebrews 2:10 – Christ is the Captain of our salvation.
 - 3. 1 Peter 5:8-9 – Satan is our enemy.
 - 4. Ephesians 6:11-17 – Our weapon and armor are spiritual.
 - F. He is the Builder of the house.
 - 1. Zechariah 6:12-13 – Prophesied that He would be the builder.
 - 2. Matthew 16:18 – Promised that He would be the builder.
 - 3. Acts 2:32-33 – Perfectly built the house (cf. Hebrews 3:3-4).
 - G. He is the Purchaser of the temple.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 – The church is the temple of God (cf. 6:19-20).
 - 2. Acts 20:28 – Purchased with the blood of Jesus (cf. Eph. 2:13-16).
 - H. He is the Vine of the branches.
 - 1. Matthew 20:1-8 – The church is God’s vineyard (cf. 1 Cor. 3:9).
 - 2. John 15:1-8 – Jesus is the life-giving vine; Christians are the branches.
 - I. He is the Shepherd of the flock.
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:1-2 – The church is a flock (cf. Acts 20:28-29).
 - 2. John 10:1-18 – Jesus is the door and shepherd of the flock.
 - J. He is the Savior of the family.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:1-8 – The church is God’s household (cf. 1 Timothy 3:15).
 - 2. Ephesians 5:23 – Jesus is the Savior of the church.

- II. The Church – No Earthly Headquarters
 - A. Christ is the only Head of the church.
 - B. The New Testament is the only guide of the church.
 - C. Thus, no man has the authority to legislate for the church.

- III. Elders – Designations
 - A. Bishops - *episkope* – superintendents, overseers (1 Tim. 3:1-2)

- B. Elders - *presbuteros* – indicates spiritual age (Acts 14:23)
- C. Overseers - *episkopos* – one charged with seeing that things are done correctly (Acts 20:28)
- D. Pastors - *poimen* – a herdsman, shepherd (Eph. 4:11)
- E. Presbyters - *presbuterion* – also indicates spiritual maturity (1 Tim. 4:14)
- F. Shepherds - *poimen* – implied in 1 Peter 5:1-4

IV. Elders – Qualifications (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

- A. **Desire** – willingly, not by constraint (cf. 1 Peter 5:2)
- B. **Blameless** – without reproach (ASV); unimpeachable character; no charge of unfitness; purity of life; integrity (does not mean sinless perfection)
- C. **Husband of One Wife** – must be married, but to only one woman; no polygamist; no unscriptural divorce and remarriage (cf. Matt. 19:1-9)
- D. **Vigilant** – literally, “holding no wine;” sober, calm, dispassionate, clearheaded
- E. **Sober** – of sound mind, sane; self-controlled, temperate
- F. **Good Behavior** – orderly, mannerly, a gentleman; one with a well-ordered life
- G. **Hospitable** – literally, “friendly to strangers;” thus, a servant to others
- H. **Apt to Teach** – skillful in teaching; thus, he has been taught, holds fast to the Truth and teaches it to others; Titus 1:9-11 explains it clearly.
- I. **Not Given to Wine** – no brawler (ASV); ready to quarrel as one drinking wine
- J. **No Striker, No Brawler, Not Soon Angry** – one who abstains from fighting; not contentious or anxious to fight; not prone to anger, quick tempered
- K. **Not Greedy of Filthy Lucre, Covetous** – no unhealthy desire for money or material possessions; literally, “not fond of silver.”
- L. **Patient, Temperate** – mild, gentle, orderly, fair; practicing self-restraint; disciplined; possessing inner strength
- M. **Rules Well His Own House**
 - 1. Must have children. {*One child counts as “children” (Eph. 6:1, 4; 1 Tim. 5:4, 10, 14; Titus 2:4; cf. Genesis 21:7; Matthew 22:24 and Deuteronomy 25:5 – matter of judgment)*}
 - 2. Must lead, rule over, discipline and care for his children.
 - 3. Must have “children that believe” (ASV); children who are Christians.
- N. **Not a Novice** – literally, “newly planted;” not newly converted to the faith
- O. **Good Report** – must have the respect of those outside the church
- P. **Just** – fair in dealings with others; not prejudiced
- Q. **Holy** – undefiled by sin; pious; faithful in one’s duty toward God
- R. **Not Self-Willed** – not inconsiderate others, self-centered; stubborn; arrogant; not rebellious against God’s will
- S. **Lover of Good** – literally, “loving goodness;” desiring that which is intrinsically good
- T. **Steward of God**
 - 1. As a steward, an elder has oversight and authority.
 - 2. However, he also must give account of his actions (cf. Hebrews 13:17).

V. Deacons – Designations

- A. The Greek word for deacon is *diakonos* (διακονος).
 - 1. The word *dia* means, “through.”
 - 2. The word *konos* means, “dust.”
 - 3. Thus, a deacon is one who kicks us dust; literally, one who raises dust by hastening.
- B. The word *diako* (διακω) meant, “to run (on errands).”
- C. The word was used by the Greeks for an attendant or a waiter.
- D. Thus, a deacon is a servant – a minister of the Lord’s church.

- E. Deacons always carry out the instructions of others.
 1. A common misconception is that elders are over the spiritual matters of the church and deacons are over the physical matters.
 2. In truth, elders are over all matters of the church!
 3. Deacons are servants with delegated authority / responsibility.

- VI. Deacons – Qualifications (1 Timothy 3)
 - A. **Grave** – venerable, honorable, respected, serious toward eternal matters
 - B. **Not Double-Tongued** – equivocal, telling a different story, deceitful
 - C. **Not Given to Much Wine** – not attentive to (or, addicted to) wine; both gluttony (for non-fermented wine) and drunkenness (for fermented wine) are condemned
 - D. **Not Greedy** – not eager for base gain; no unhealthy desire for money
 - E. **Holding the Faith** – steadfastly holding on to the truth of the Gospel of Christ
 1. The mystery is revealed in the Gospel (1 Timothy 3:16; Romans 16:25-27; Ephesians 3:3-4).
 2. He must hold on to this Truth with a clean and pure heart and mind.
 3. In other words, a deacon must not be tossed by every wind of doctrine.
 - F. **Proved** – to be put to the test and, thus, approved; to examine and deem worthy
 - G. **Blameless** – irreproachable; character cannot be called in question
 - H. **Husband of One Wife** – must be married; but no polygamy or unscriptural divorce and remarriage
 - I. **Rule Well Their House**
 1. Must have children.
 2. Must lead, rule over, discipline and care for his children.
 3. They may be young children, but old enough to show his rule over them.

- VII. Qualifications of Wives of Deacons
 - A. **Grave** – same word as for deacons; must be worthy of respect
 - B. **Not Slanderers** – not a false accuser; the word is *diabolos* (δίαβολος) which is the word for devil (who is the accuser of the brethren [cf. Rev. 12:9-10; 20:10]).
 - C. **Sober** – temperate, vigilant, serious-minded; abstaining from intoxication
 - D. **Faithful** – trustworthy and honest; full of faith