



**God's House Series: Part 8: Older Brothers; I Timothy 3:1-13**  
**Mike Halpin ~ April 10, 2016**

**Intro:** How do you picture "authority" in the Church? What does a leader in God's household look like?

**Text—** 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:1-13, *ESV*

**I. Key Terms & Concepts—**

*Overseers* = episcopes, one who watches over. Older translations = "bishop" Vs. 1, 2

*Elders* = presbuteros, an older person/man. Almost always used as a plural. 1 Tim. 4:14; 5:17

*Shepherds* = poimaino, keep sheep. 1 Peter 5:1-2 (elders called to shepherd & oversee...)

*Deacons* = diakonos, a servant; one carrying out the commands of another. Vs. 8, 12

Only key difference w/ Elders: "apt to teach" Cf. V 9 they DO hold mystery of faith

**Overseers:**

**Positive Characteristics:**

- |                           |                    |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| *above reproach           | *one woman man     | *temperate         |
| *wise                     | *respectable       | *hospitable        |
| *able to teach            | *gentle            | *peaceful          |
| *exemplary husband/father |                    | *good reputation   |
| *just                     | *devout            | *doctrinally sound |
| *desires to serve         | *example to others |                    |

**Not Characterized by:**

- \*excess consumption
- \*combateness
- \*greed
- \*spiritual youthfulness
- \*pride

**Deacons:**

**Positive Characteristics:**

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| *dignified         | *above reproach             |
| *clear conscience  | *one woman man              |
| *proven in service | *exemplary husbands/fathers |

**Not Characterized by:**

- \*hypocrisy
- \*excess consumption
- \*greed

**Summary:** Those leading the local Church are meant to be, simply, mature versions of Christian faith, older brothers.

**Others:** Acts 6:1-8; 14:23; 15:2,4, 6, 22-23; 16:4; 20:17-35; 21:18; 22:5; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5-8; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-5.

**Lion & Lamb Statement of Belief:** *In the local Church Christ has appointed that a plurality of men serve in the roles of elders and deacons to provide leadership and oversight.*

**II. Training for God's House—**

Not required:

Seminary degrees—

Political, social or economic standing—

Good managers of their own homes:

- V. 4 Elders: He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,
- V. 12 Deacons: ... managing their children and their own households well.

The best, and key, training ground for men to become leaders in the household of God is—their own households and their own families.

Luke 16:10-11

### III. From Peter to Papa—

A very little history, from 70 AD to Nicea and beyond...

The separation of some into an elite priesthood was in direct contradiction to one of the central NT teachings— that in Christ, every believer, every child of God, is a priest.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:5, 9

### IV. Women as Overseers/Deacons?

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:11-15

Biblically, what arguments are advanced for female Elders and/or Deacons?

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae,

Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### V. Jesus as Model—

Frances Schaeffer, *No Little People*, re. Matthew 23:8

*This does not mean there is to be no order in the Church. It does mean that the basic relationship between Christians is not that of elder and people, or pastor and people, but that of brothers and sisters in Christ. This denotes that there is one Father in the family and that his offspring are all equal. There are different jobs to be done, different offices to be filled, but we as Christians are equal before one Master. We are not to seek a great title; we are to have the places together as brethren.*

Matthew 23:4-12

Mark 10:42-45

Hebrews 13:17

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5

Some of us want some authority figure to tell us what to do...

Some of us don't want anyone telling us what to do.....

Ephesians 4:11-13