

TDP Number 19 Pastors and Deacons

Taught by Joe Morell & Will Thompson

“We believe that there are two divinely appointed offices in a church, pastors and deacons, to be filled by men whose qualifications are set forth in Titus and 1 Timothy.”

The Lord in his infinite wisdom gave pastors and deacons to the church for the work of the ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. When the two offices function as God intended, it is a beautiful thing to watch! The vision is clear, the church is unified, and the church’s mission on earth is fulfilled.

Many churches are living like dysfunctional families. Pastors, deacons and congregations don’t even understand their _____.

They operate on a ministry model not based on _____, but on their own preconceptions and practiced tradition, which can never be _____ or effective.

Churches that understand and implement the biblical model for pastors, deacons and church polity are alive with _____ and are impacting their surrounding communities and the world with the living gospel of Jesus Christ.

PASTOR

Let’s first look at the words for the “PASTOR”: The first word the Bible uses is Pastor or _____.

He _____ the church, corrects the church and is responsible for _____ the church just like a shepherd over a flock of sheep.

The second word that the scripture mentions is the “BISHOP”. This word is derived from two Greek words “over” and “watcher”. So the Bishop is the “_____” or the “overseer” of a church.

Thirdly, he is the “ELDER”. *Rebuke not an elder. (1Timothy 5:1)*

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. (1Timothy 5:19)

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder, says that a church should be _____ to elders. (1Peter 5:5)

PASTORS AS SPIRITUAL _____

A pastor is to be the:

- Herdsman over a church like a _____ over a flock.
- Bishop, the “_____!” of the work.
- Spiritual mature Elder that is respected and _____ by the congregation he leads.

DEACON

The first deacons were _____ in Jerusalem as recorded in the sixth chapter of the book of Acts (*Acts 6:1-7*)

The _____ presented the need and specified clearly the qualifications required for the seven which would be chosen. (*Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13*)

DEACONS AS SPIRITUAL _____

“Deacon” (Greek “*diakonos*”): a _____, a waiter of tables, (literally-”to run to serve”).

The pastor is to be the spiritual _____ and the deacon is to be the spiritual _____.

PASTORS AND DEACONS IN ACTS 6

The position of the Deacon was created out of a need for _____.

The pastors fulfilled their God-given role as SPIRITUAL LEADERS to the congregation as they continued in the ministry of the Word without _____.

The deacons began their role as SPIRITUAL SERVANTS.

Potential division in the church was diverted and _____ was preserved.

The Result: The church _____ in number and influence. (Acts 6:7)

A healthy, unified, influential, worshipful, and growing church results when pastors and deacons understand, embrace, and function together in their God-given, _____ roles.

THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF THE PASTORS

The Pastors Are the _____ of the Church
(1 Thess. 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7; 17)

The churches of the New Testament were:

- Pastor _____
- Spirit _____
- Church _____

The Pastors are _____ & _____ of the Word.
(Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Timothy 5:2).

The ministry of the word must be his highest _____ without distraction.

So many pastors cannot “_____” their churches because they are overwhelmed all week doing the work of the ministry, which in reality, should be done by the deacons and the church.

The church is led... the church is fed... by the _____ as the spiritual leader of the flock.

THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF DEACONS

The Deacon is a _____, modeling to the church unselfish and sacrificial service to others within the body of Christ and the community.

Deacons As Pastors’ _____
The deacons in Acts chapter 6 _____ the pastors could minister in the Word of God & prayer without distraction.

New Testament pastors and deacons worked together to make sure the church’s _____ & _____ for evangelism and discipleship would be fulfilled.

Deacons as _____ Builders

The Church at Jerusalem was divided between the conflict of the Hebrew and Grecian widows. Because the pastors led and the deacons served, unity was _____ and the church flourished with dynamic growth!

Deacons as _____ & Short Term _____
Phillip, one of the seven, was called the “_____” in Acts 21:8. He was used of God to plant the first Samaritan church in Acts 8. He preached the gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch.

When both embrace and the church understands and accepts their God-given roles, the church will _____ spiritually and numerically. It is a beautiful thing to see when it _____.

LIFE APPLICATION

Spend time in prayer this week considering the following:

Pastors:

- Are you able to fully devote yourself to ministering the Word of God and prayer without distraction?
- Have you been intentional in equipping your deacons to fulfill their intended roles?
- Do you allow them to serve to their fullest?
- Have you equipped them with the necessary tools, training and resources?

Deacons:

- Do you work with, rather than against, your pastor?
- Do you lift up and encourage your pastor?
- Do you look for ways to help lighten the load on your pastor?
- Do you model unselfish and sacrificial service?
- Do you go out of your way to look for ways to serve in your church? In your community?
- Do you encourage other members to come along side of you and help?
- Do you equip others for service?
- Do you build unity?
- Are you a promoter of evangelism and missions in your church?

The Flock:

- Do you follow your pastors leadership?
- Do you encourage your pastor and deacons?
- Do you look for additional ways to serve and minister in your community?
- Do you encourage others to join you in serving and ministering?
- Do you build unity?

If you've answered "no" to any of these, ask why? Spend time this week praying about how you can better fulfill your God-given role, then go talk to your pastor about it!