

For the last 4 weeks we've attempted to gain wisdom/understanding of the CHURCH.

Really asking 2 questions: **WHAT IS THE CHURCH & HOW SHOULD IT LOOK?**

We've seen that the Church is a people who **BELONG – GATHER – SERVE & WITNESS.**

GOD BRINGS THIS WORK ABOUT THRU HIS SON & BY HIS SPIRIT.

By looking at his Word we see **HOW WE ARE TO WALK THIS OUT TOGETHER AS HIS PEOPLE.**

Today we conclude this series by looking at the leadership of the Church.

From the time of Abraham, we see a presence of leadership within God's people.

From Leaders to Judges to Kings to Prophets to Priest, we saw leadership.

When Jesus arrived, there was no question as to who the Leader was.

But as he left, and sent out his church, **it leaves us with a question.**

WHO LEADS THE CHURCH & WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR US?

STAND & READ EPHESIANS 1:15-23. (pg. 1252)

LET'S SAY THIS EARLY & OFTEN – JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

From the gospels to the end, this is abundantly clear.

AS JESUS DEPARTS & THE CHURCH WAS FOUNDED, WE SEE 2 OFFICES SPRING FORTH.

These offices do not RUN THE CHURCH – THEY LEAD & SERVE THE CHURCH.

They do so for the glory of God, the good of the church & for the sake of the Gospel.

It's as if these 2 offices are like that of the WEST WING.

They serve at the pleasure of the president...in this case, their Savior & Lord & King.

TO HELP US GO DEEPER INTO THESE OFFICE WE ASK WHO THEY ARE & WHAT THEY DO.

WE BEGIN WITH WHO THEY ARE - We find this in **1 Timothy 3:1-13**

First, we see the **Elder or Overseer** – In our context, we know this to be the Pastor **3:1-7**

The second office is that of the Deacon – vv. 8-13

As Paul explains these offices, he lists THE QUALIFICATIONS. **(WHO THEY ARE TO BE)**

And they really sound similar other than the **ELDER MUST BE ABLE TO TEACH. V.2**

In other words, PAUL HELPS TIMOTHY & US SEE WHO IS QUALIFIED FOR THESE OFFICES?

BUT PLEASE KNOW THIS: these are qualities we should all seek to be true of us. **HUGE!**

Paul gives 9 qualities of WHO THEY ARE TO BE – I've put them into 4 areas.

- **WORTHY OF RESPECT** - Paul uses the word dignified. This simply means respected. (honorable, gracious, generous, truthful, sober & alert) **(v.8)**
- **SOUND IN FAITH & LIFE - (v.9) THEY KNOW - HOLD & LIVE THE FAITH.**
Simply put, they are a believer who is actively pursuing Christ.
- **TESTED & PROVEN (v.10). They have a track record of faithfulness.** Are established.
 - This also comes through a series of conversations & observation.
- **Faithful family life (vv. 11-12)**

- Husband of one wife (one woman man)
- The shepherd of their wife & kids. Lead & Love well (manage household)
- Have a faithful wife – **v.13**

THIS IS WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN DEACONS & WHAT CURRENT DEACONS STRIVE TO BE.
BUT THEN WE NOTICE WHAT THEY DO? We find the genesis of this in Acts 6.

The church has grown & in this midst of this growth, a need arises. **Read Acts 6:1-7**
WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM? NEEDS WERE GOING UNMET.

The Apostles were stretched & ultimately taken away from Word ministry. **(main task)**
WHAT WAS THE SOLUTION? THE CHURCH WAS TO SET ASIDE MEN TO ASSIST & SERVE.

BUT TO DO WHAT? TO MEET TANGIBLE NEEDS OF THE BODY.

Here in Acts 6, what did they do? **They assisted the apostles by providing relief.**

They eased the burden of ministry, came alongside the church and served faithfully.
THIS TASK IS THE SAME TODAY – AND MIGHT I ADD – OUR DEACONS DO THIS WELL.

THEY MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS & THEY PARTER WITH ME TO MEET NEEDS.

I'm thankful for them & am eager to add more men to that group.

BUT NOTICE: This doesn't excuse/diminish the work & serving of the entire body.
THERE IS TASK FOR EACH OF US TO DO. A NEEDED TASK – A MUST BE DONE TASK.

So may we all strive to simply honor & glorify God by serving & walking together.
 A title or office doesn't make you any better nor does the lack thereof make you less.

But today, like in Acts 6, we see a need for more help in our deacon ministry.
 The plan is to set aside a few men for this office, to help with the ministry of Tyus.

A sheet is provided in the back that lists out what we discussed today.
 Along with that are some contextual qualifications such as age & membership.

These are not unreasonable, but simply wise as we consider this task.
 So as we close, I want us to spend some time in prayer together.

I want us to look within our lives – consider our place here at Tyus.
AM I SERVING? AM I JOINING IN WITH THE WORK HERE? **DO I belong/gather/serve?**

I also want us to also pray for humility, unity & wisdom over the next several weeks.
SO I'M ASKING THAT EACH ABLE MEMBER COME & PRAY FOR THAT SPECIFICALLY.

May we humble ourselves before God & then watch him work all thing for his glory.

HEADS BOWED THIS MORNING GIVES US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.

WE GAIN WISDOM AS WE PREPARE TO SET APART MEN FOR THE OFFICE OF SERVANT.
 This office provides leadership & ministry to the body.