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## **FCS1-3-06: The Office of Elders and Deacons**

*In the Mentor / Disciple relationship, they work together to enhance the disciple's Biblical knowledge. Within the Elder / Disciple relationship, the Elder is responsible to watch and tend over the soul of the disciple.*

*Just as there are offices in governments and organizations, there are offices within the church. These offices have different administrations and responsibilities within the Body of Christ.*

Office: (Greek 4234 – as used in *Romans 12:4*) praxis; from 4238; practice, i.e. (concretely) an act; by extension, a function: — deed, office, work.

**Romans 12:4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same **office**:

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the **rule** over you, and **submit yourselves**: for they **watch for your souls**, as they that **must give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

Rule: (Greek 2233 – As used in *Hebrews 13:17*) hegeomai hayg-eh'-om-ahee middle voice of a (presumed) strengthened form of 71; to lead, i.e. command (**with official authority**); figuratively, to deem, i.e. consider:--**account**, (**be**) **chief**, count, esteem, governor, judge, **have the rule over**, suppose, think.

### **The Offices and Order in the Body of Christ**

Christ: *The Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18)*

Presbytery: (Greek 4244 – *1 Timothy 4:14*) presbuterion pres-boo-ter'-ee-on neuter of a presumed derivative of 4245; **the order of elders**, i.e. (specially), Israelite Sanhedrin or Christian "presbytery":--(**estate of**) **elder(-s)**, presbytery.

*Christian Fellowship Church Ministries International follows the administrative model of the Presbytery as being the Board of Elders or also known as the Board of Directors.*

*\* The governing body of leading Elders that are responsible for the legal and administrative status of the international organization.*

*\* In the Early Church, the lead Elders of the church were at Jerusalem (Acts 16:4).*

Elders: (Greek 4245 – *Acts 20:17*) 4245 presbuteros pres-boo'-ter-os comparative of presbus (elderly); older; as noun, **a senior**; specially, an Israelite Sanhedrist (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or **Christian presbyter**:-- **elder(-est)**, old.

*\* A Bishop, Overseer, Superintendent of a congregation.  
(See also Greek 1983, 1984, 1985)*

Deacons: – Office: (Greek 1247 – *1 Timothy 3:13*) diakoneo dee-ak-on-eh'-o from 1249; to **be an attendant**, i.e. wait upon (menially or as a host, friend, or (figuratively) teacher); technically, to **act as a Christian deacon**:--(**ad-**)**minister (unto)**, serve, use the office of a deacon.



*\* Church congregation leaders that are not the Elders, but are responsible for particular parts of the ministry.*

### **Office of Elders**

**Elders:** (Greek 4245 – *1 Peter 5:1*) presbuteros pres-boo'-ter-os comparative of presbus (elderly); older; as noun, **a senior**; specially, an **Israelite Sanhedrist** (also figuratively, **member of the celestial council**) or Christian "**presbyter**":-- **elder(-est)**, old.

**Overseers:** (Greek 1985 – *Acts 20:28*) episkopos ep-is'-kop-os from 1909 and 4649 (in the sense of 1983); a superintendent, i.e. **Christian officer in genitive case charge of a (or the) church** (literally or figuratively):--**bishop, overseer**.

**Bishop:** (Greek 1984 – *1 Timothy 3:1*) episkope ep-is-kop-ay' from 1980; **inspection** (for relief); by implication, **superintendence**; specially, **the Christian "episcopate"**:--the office of a "bishop", bishoprick, visitation.

**Bishops:** (Greek 1985 – *Philippians 1:1*) same as Overseers (above).

**Acts 20:17** And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

**1 Peter 5:1-5** The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**1 Timothy 3:1-7** This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

*For the purposes of this lesson and within our church congregations, the office of an Elder represents a man serving in the office as an overseer of a congregation. His primary responsibility is to shepherd (pastor) the believers under his care by feeding and leading in spiritual matters. A person that holds this Christian standard is a person that is spiritually trustworthy within their ministry and faithful to their calling in Christ.*



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*An Elder is someone that a new believer may place their trust in with submission unto their spiritual counsel as they care for the status of their souls before Christ.*

*An Elder may also be an older person, in physical years, that has the beneficial knowledge that the seasoning of life experiences has taught them. This wisdom and knowledge is also worthy of respect and a willingness to receive any such admonishments from.*

## **Deacons**

**Deacon:** (Greek 1247 – 1 Timothy 3:8) diakoneo dee-ak-on-eh'-o from 1249; to be an attendant, i.e. wait upon (menially or as a host, friend, or (figuratively) teacher); technically, to act as a Christian deacon:--(**ad-**)**minister** (unto), **serve**, use **the office of a deacon**.

**1 Timothy 3:8-13** Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. 11 Even so *must* their wives *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**Deacon:** (Merriams-Webster.com) a subordinate officer in a Christian church: such as one of the laymen elected by a church with congregational polity to serve in worship, in pastoral care, and on administrative committees.

*For the purposes of this lesson and within our church congregations, the office of a Deacon represents a bold, faithful person in Christ that has established a pattern and testimony worthy of their related responsibilities. A person that holds this Christian standard is a person that is spiritually trustworthy within their ministry and faithful to their calling in Christ.*

*There are various responsibilities within the church congregation that are administered by Deacons. Under the accountability and direction of the congregation's Elders, the Deacon's ministry and purpose are for the edifying and effectual operation of the Body of Christ.*

*The body of Christ edifies itself within the loving relationships it has with its members. The relationship of the disciple with their mentors tend to their Biblical growth. Their relationship with the Elders and Deacons pertain more towards their personal ministry and salvation.*



### Question 1

As defined, a deacon will also minister and serve in the congregation.

True

False

True/False

### Question 2

As described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, deacons must be:

Greedy of filthy lucre.

Hold the mystery of the faith in pure conscience.

Blameless.

Grave.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

### Question 3

As defined, an elder may be an Israelite Sanhedrist or a member of the celestial council.

True

False

True/False

### Question 4

As defined, an overseer is also a superintendent or a bishop.

True

False

True/False

### Question 5

As described in 1 Peter 5:1-5, elders must also:

Be of a ready mind.

Be an example to the flock.

Be full of pride.

Feed the flock of God.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)



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### Question 6

As described in Acts 20:28, overseers feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

True

False

True/False

### Question 7

As described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, a bishop must be:

Apt to teach.

Vigilant.

Sober.

Covetous.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)



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