

# Leadership structure:



## Elders:

**The church will seek to make elders. But they must promote/practice Bible themes. God expects us to follow His Word in all things. We are to speak the whole council of His Word. ([Acts 20:27](#))**

The New Testament pattern is to have church elders who follow the Bible's command to be hospitable. It's considered so important that God tells them an elder must be this. ([1 Timothy 3:2](#)) The command to teach is there as well. God expects us all to do these things as Christians. We are to teach one another and we are to teach the lost. Elders are expected to follow the Great Commission to be teachers/evangelists.

A bad example can influence the whole church. An elder who does not follow the Bible does not help God's family grow as teachers, soul winners, leaders, or kingdom workers. This type of elder is not a Biblical elder. When elders are content to let the flock sit around, talk to their cliques, and be idle in doing the Lord's work, such "leadership" is harmful to the congregation and it is not Biblical.

Being tender-hearted, having a servant's heart, and seeking the best for others above self is what Jesus did. Shepherds need to be worthy of following our Lord and Chief Shephard, by living according to His Word. ([Philippians 2:1-11](#))

An elder must also have zero tolerance for false teachings and teachers. ([Acts 20:28-31](#)) Churches have died due to being lax on this issue. Christians have fallen away due to elders ignoring the wolves living with the sheep.

**For an elder to be appointed he must be an evangelist and be hospitable. An elder needs to know His flock and talk to them, not just his social circle. One cannot be a shepherd and "watch over the flock" if one does not know the sheep. ([1 Peter 5:1-4](#))**

**He must lead with his actions, and not just with his words. Here are the qualifications of an elder. ([1 Timothy 3:1-7](#))**

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## Deacons:

**Deacons are also supposed to be hospitable and evangelistic since they are in a position of influence and these are expected Bible commands to be followed. In the Bible deacon means "worker."**

They are to be church helpers in needed areas of congregational efforts. (Acts 6:1-7) Examples: Budgeting church treasury, getting a head count of attendance, and following up with letting others know who was missed. Supporting kingdom work by doing things like helping/promoting church meetings, making websites, social media and physical flyers, etc. He needs to learn who is sick, who needs visiting, and who is in the hospitable, and let the congregation know. We are all called to be workers, but a deacon is a special worker who sacrifices his time to coordinate/organize, and support the church work that the elders focus on. The standards for being an Elder are recorded in the Bible. Elders must meet certain qualifications to be appointed, (1 Timothy 3:1-7/Titus 1:6-9). It's important that men meet such qualifications to be accepted in this leadership. Notice in the book of Titus, an elder is also called an overseer/bishop.

A good deacon will help the elders with their vision for church growth and evangelism. They will see the importance of God's teachings of sharing Jesus and set the right example in the position they are in, (for others to see). Deacons are leaders and influencers, (by their examples). They need to set the right Bible tone in these matters.

**Deacons are often associated with elders. Deacons are helpers of the eldership in matters of church work. They too must be appointed, (Acts 6:1-5). They too must have qualifications, (1 Timothy 3:8-13)**