

## The Office of a Deacon

by John Isaac Edwards

Paul wrote Timothy about “...the office of a deacon...” (1 Timothy 3:10, 13). Let’s explore this a bit.

**Included in the Organization Pattern.** Paul addressed his Philippian letter, “...to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Philippians 1:1). No church is fully organized after the New Testament pattern without saints, bishops, and deacons. Saints are simply church members, “...them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...” (1 Corinthians 1:2). Bishops are Holy Spirit made “overseers” (Acts 20:28), charged with “taking the oversight” of the local church (1 Peter 5:2). These are also known as “elders” (Acts 20:17) and “pastors” (Ephesians 4:11). This study concerns deacons.

**Requires Qualified Men.** Having just given the qualifications of a bishop, Paul said, “Likewise must

the deacons be...” (1 Timothy 3:8). Just as men appointed to the eldership must possess certain abilities and qualities, the office of a deacon requires qualified men. The qualifications are not optional, but essential as seen in the word “must”. These characteristics are to be present in each man individually, and are both positive and negative in nature (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

### *Positive*

*qualifications:* grave, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, blameless, husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

### *Negative*

*qualifications:* not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.

There are also requirements of the wives of deacons. “Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (v. 11). A man may be disqualified by the conduct of his wife.

**Involves the Work of a Servant.** The office of a deacon is not an honorary position. It is not sitting in a room with the word “office” over it. It does not involve oversight of the church as elders are assigned this responsibility (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-2).

The office of a deacon is a work, and is suggested in the meaning of the word “deacon” - “one who executes the commands of another, a servant, an attendant, a minister” (*Thayer, p. 38*). Deacons are servants of the local church, serving under the oversight of the elders in the local church.

**Has a Reward.** Paul wrote, “For they that have used the office a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 3:13).

Let me encourage you to work toward being a deacon in the church.

# Helping the Church Have Elders

by John Isaac Edwards

Would you like to see the local church have elders? Here are some things we can do to help the church have elders.

**Recognize the Church Needs Elders.** If we do not first recognize the need for elders, very little will be done to work toward the appointment of elders. The fact that Christ “gave... some, pastors” (Ephesians 4:11) and elders were ordained “in every church” (Acts 14:23) “in every city” (Titus 1:5) expresses a definite need for elders in the church.

**Train Up Children to Be Elders and Elders’ Wives.** The Wisdom book teaches, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Preparing men for the

eldership begins in the home. As the work of Lois and Eunice helped prepare Timothy to preach the word (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15), mothers and grandmothers (as well as fathers and grandfathers) can plant seeds today that produce the leaders of tomorrow! Let’s teach our young, “... how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God” (1 Timothy 3:15). Help boys to become what bishops and deacons must be and girls to become what their wives must be!

**Encourage Men to Be Elders.** It may be that some churches are without elders because men have not been encouraged to be elders. In fact, men may be discouraged from being elders in some places! Do you see men in the local church that show good

potential for the eldership? Encourage them.

**Desire the Office.** The more men who desire the office, the more likely the church is to have elders. We can help the church have elders by developing the desire for the office (1 Timothy 3:1), and thus working to develop the abilities and qualities necessary to be appointed to this good work. Serve at every opportunity in the present, realizing you are gaining experience that will be helpful in the future.

**Pray for Elders.** The Scriptures stress the power of prayer (James 5:16-18). Pray fervently that well-qualified men will be appointed to the eldership; that the church will be fully organized after the pattern of the New Testament.

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

***Come be with us!***



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

**[www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**