

# ELDERS AND DEACONS

## ELDERS

### 1. *Their Gradual Emergence in the Early Church*

- Christ's Apostles led the Jerusalem church → Acts 1:2, 26; 2:37, 42-43; 4:33ff; 5:12; 6:1ff; 8:1, 14; 9:27
- As time passed, elders were chosen from the assembly in Jerusalem to serve alongside the Apostles → Acts 11:1 ("brothers"); 11:30 (first ref to "elders"); 15:2, 4, 6, 22-23, 33; 16:4 (last ref to "apostles and elders")
- Eventually, even in the church at Jerusalem, elders were recognized as the official leaders of local churches → Acts 14:23; 20:17; 21:17-18 ("James and all the elders")

### 2. *Their Spiritual Authority in the Assembly*

- Evidences → Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 6, 22-23; 16:4; 20:28; 1 Thess 5:12; 1 Tim 5:17
- Spiritual Qualifications → 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
- Limitations to Authority
  - The headship of Christ → Col 1:18
  - The foundation of the Apostles → Eph 2:19-22
  - The priesthood of the believer → Acts 15:12, 22; 1 Pet 2:5, 9; 5:3

### 3. *Their Work within the Assembly*

- The Nature of Their Work
  - Protect the Flock → Acts 20:17, 28-31a
  - Lead the Flock → 1 Tim 3:4-5; 5:17; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:1-3
  - Feed the Flock → Matt 28:20 (with John 21:17 and 1 Pet 5:1-2); Titus 1:9; 1 Tim 4:13; 5:17-18
  - Care for the Flock → Jas 5:14; 1 Thess 5:12-13
- The Organization of Their Work
  - Their Number → Acts 14:23; 15:22; Titus 1:5; Jam 5:14; 1 Tim 5:17
  - Their Relationship to One Another → 1 Tim 5:17

## DEACONS

### 1. *Understanding the Office*

### 2. *Filters for Determining Qualified Deacons*

- Filter #1 → Biblical Qualifications (1 Tim 3:8ff) → the man + his wife + his family
- Filter #2 → Faithful Giving to Church
- Filter #3 → Regular Attendance at Church Services
- Filter #4 → Servant's Orientation