

Morning Sermon, Sunday 26 January 2014, Julian Hardyman

Elders and deacons in church life

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Organising the Church of the Living God for Maximum Truth.

Elders (1-7)

- Their responsibilities: leading and caring for the church through the Word of God.
- Their qualifications: mature Christian men who can teach and lead.

Deacons (8-13)

- Their responsibilities: the practical side of church life.
- Their qualifications: mature Christian men and women with appropriate gifts
- Their rewards

Further reading

- Don Carson's article on this passage: <http://bit.ly/1dUIUxU>
- *Systematic Theology* – Wayne Grudem, chapter 47.
- Mark Dever at <http://www.9marks.org/what-are-the-9marks/leadership>

The following pages contain copies of the PowerPoint slides used and referred to by Julian during this sermon...

Elders and Deacons in Church Life

Why this matters

The church needs organisation.

The church needs God's organisation to be most effective in fulfilling God's plan

1 Timothy 3: 14-15

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing to you with these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (NIV)

Why this matters

The church needs organisation.

The church needs God's organisation to be most effective in fulfilling God's plan

How we choose elders (and deacons) reflects how seriously we take the Word of God

We are choosing a new Assistant Pastor

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the **overseers** and **deacons**....

ELDERS

Titus 1:6-7: Elders = overseers

An **elder** must be blameless, Since an **overseer** manages God's household, he must be blameless ...

Acts 20:28: Overseers = Shepherds

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds** of the church of God....(NIV)

1 Peter 5:1-2 elders=shepherds

“To the **elders** among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: be **shepherds** of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them

” (NIV)

Elders=Pastors=Overseers

Eldership = maturity, seniority

Shepherds/Pastors = authority to care, guide, protect and feed

Overseers = leading and organising

1 Timothy 5:17

The elders who direct the affairs of the church.....

1 Timothy 5:17

The elders who direct the affairs of the church....., especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.....

Titus 1:9

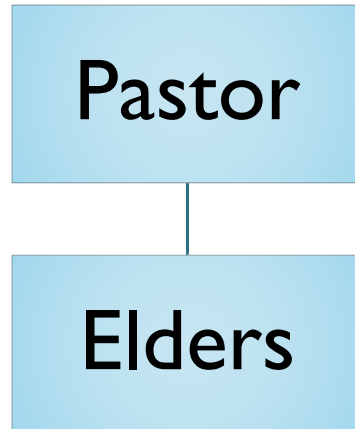
An overseer must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it..

Eldership is plural

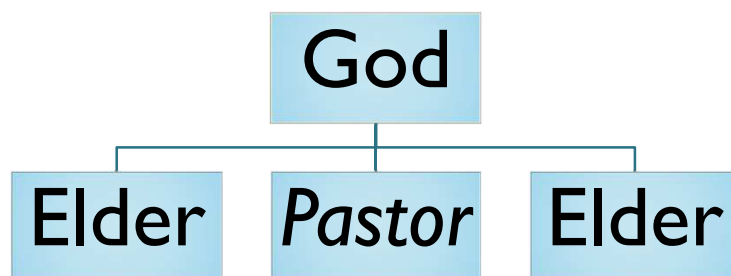
Eldership is male

Pastors are elders

Not this.....



But this.....





Stuart White, Simon Gathercole, Dave Tricker, Graham Treece



Martin Lown, Julian Hardyman, Dave Gobbett, Dirk Jongkind

DEACONS

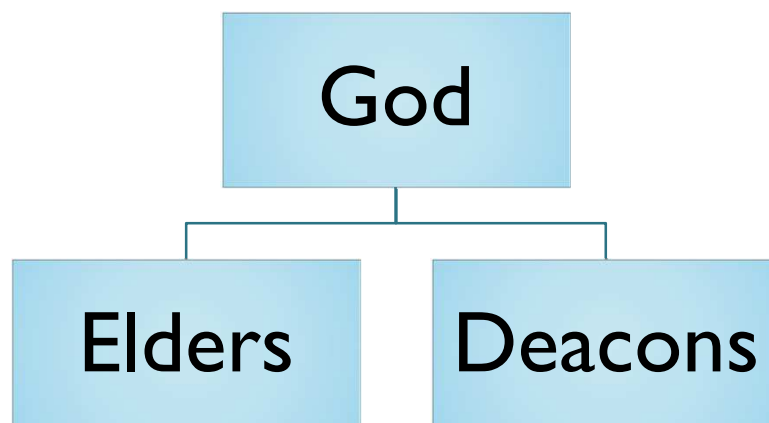
Acts 6:1-4

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order **to wait on [or serve]** tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. **We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'**

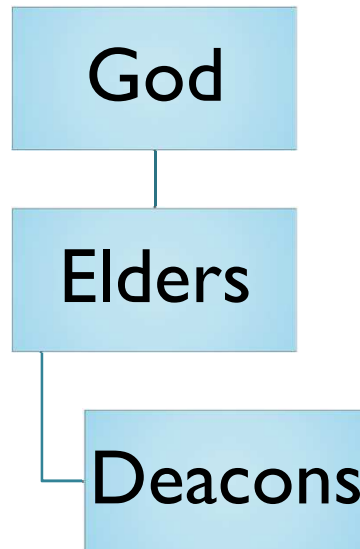
Romans 16:1-2

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **deacon** of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.” (NIV)

Not this.....



But this....



Accountability within the church

