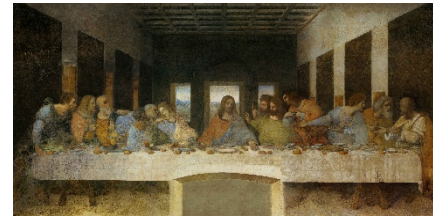


The Family & The Meal



Introduction

- ✓ **Quote:** The highest of distinctions is the service of others (King George VI, Coronation Broadcast, 1937)
- ✓ **Big Idea:** *God has definite ideas about what a church servant-leader should look like.*

Elders

References:

- ✓ **Philippians 1:1**
- ✓ **1 Timothy 3:1-7**
- ✓ **Titus 1:5-9**

Terminology:

The one office is described in the NT by 3 terms (cf. **Acts 20:17, 28**; **1 Peter 5:1-4**):

- ✓ **Elder** (πρεσβύτερος “presbyterian”)→ stresses wisdom (age) and maturity (from OT Jewish clan leaders)
- ✓ **Shepherd** (ποιμήν “pastor”)→ stresses the servant, ministry aspect
- ✓ **Overseer** (ἐπίσκοπος “bishop”)→ stresses the function of the office, i.e. guarding against heresy

Qualifications: **1 Timothy 3:1-7

❖ **Calling** (verse 1)

- He must *desire* the position

❖ **Character** (verses 2-7)

- **Reputation** (*Kent Hughes)
 - **Blameless/above reproach:**
 - He must not be open to criticism concerning his moral conduct
- **Marriage/Relationships**
 - **Husband of one wife:**
 - Literally “a one woman man”
 - He must be faithful and committed to his wife (this includes no divorce *while a Christian*, see **verses 4-5**)
- **Self-Mastery**
 - **Temperate/vigilant:**
 - He must have an attitude of self-control and clarity of mind (not controlled by anything other than Christ)
 - **Sober-minded/self-controlled/prudent/sober:**
 - Literally “a sound or healthy mind”
 - He must have a level-headed perspective on the world that results in an orderly life
 - **Good behavior/respectable:**
 - Literally “well arranged”
 - He must be disciplined and honorable in his actions
- **Ministry**
 - **Hospitable:**
 - Literally “a lover of strangers”
 - He must be a kind and gracious host

- ***Able to teach:***
 - He must understand and be able to convey basic Christian truths
- **Temperance**
 - ***Not given to wine/drunkenness/addicted to wine:***
 - Literally “near wine”
 - He must not be a drunkard or dependent upon alcohol
- **Temperament**
 - ***Not violent/pugnacious/a striker:***
 - He must not be quarrelsome or eager to fight (not an angry person)
 - ***Gentle/patient:***
 - He must be considerate of other opinions and look reasonably at facts
 - ***Not quarrelsome/a brawler:***
 - Literally “without fighting”
 - He must not be full of passion and fight
- **Money**
 - ***Not greedy for money/filthy lucre:*** (NKJV v. 3)
 - Not in NU
 - He must not be greedy or into dishonest, secular money schemes
 - ***Not covetous/lover of money:***
 - Literally “not loving money”
 - He must not be greedy, envious, or materialistic
- **Family**
 - ***Rules his own house well/manage his family well:***
 - Literally “to stand before/lead/attend to beautifully”
 - He must be a loving, servant-leader and head of his household
 - ***Having his children in submission/obedience/control:***
 - Literally “to rank under with all respect”
 - He must be a loving parent that is responsible for his children (including discipline)
- **Maturity**
 - ***Not a novice/recent convert/new convert:***
 - Literally “newly planted”
 - He must not be a baby Christian in that he does not understand his servant-leadership role (pride and conceit might rear its ugly head...)
- **Reputation** (Again!)
 - ***Have a good testimony among those outside/good reputation with outsiders:***
 - He must have a solid witness in the community (that is attractive to unbelievers)

Deacons

References:

- ✓ [Philippians 1:1](#)
- ✓ [Acts 6:1-7](#)
- ✓ [1 Timothy 3:8-13](#)

Terminology:

The office of deacon in the NT (most likely) started in [Acts 6:1-7](#):

- ✓ **Deacon** (διάκονος “servant, helper”) → concerned with hands-on ministry that emphasizes taking care of physical needs in the congregation (whatever the elders delegate to them)

Qualifications: **1 Timothy 3:8-13

❖ The Acts

- “Origin” **Acts 6:1-7

❖ The Attributes

- Deacon qualifications are important just like elder’s ~ “likewise” (v. 8)
- Respected
 - *Reverent/worthy of respect/men of dignity/grave:*
 - He must be honorable and worthy of respect
 - *Not double-tongued/sincere:*
 - Literally “two words”
 - He must not say one thing and mean another (hypocrite) or give different versions of the story to different people
 - *Not given to/indulging in/addicted to much wine:*
 - Literally “paying attention to much wine”
 - He must be responsible with alcohol and not controlled by it
 - *Not greedy for money/pursuing dishonest gain/fond of sordid gain/greedy of filthy lucre:*
 - Literally “shameful gain”
 - He must not be greedy or into dishonest, secular money schemes
- Convinced
 - *Holding the mystery/deep truths of the faith with a pure/clear conscience:*
 - He must be doctrinally sound
- Tested
 - *First be proved/tested:*
 - He must have a reputation and record of faithful service in the local church
 - *Blameless/nothing against them/beyond reproach:*
 - Literally “not called up (for trial)”
 - He must not be accused of any wrongdoing
- Help-Mated
 - *Their wives must be:*
 - *Reverent/worthy of respect/dignified/grave:*
 - ◆ She must be honorable
 - *Not slanderers/malicious talkers/gossips:*
 - ◆ Literally “devils”
 - ◆ She must not criticize or find fault
 - *Temperate/sober:*
 - ◆ She must have an attitude of self-control and clarity of mind (not controlled by anything other than Christ)
 - *Faithful in all things/trustworthy in everything:*
 - ◆ Literally “full of faith”
 - ◆ She must be reliable and dependable
- Domesticated
 - *Husband of one wife:*
 - Literally “a one woman man”
 - He must be faithful and committed to his wife (this includes no divorce *while a Christian*, see [verses 4-5](#))
 - *Ruling/managing his children and own house well:*
 - Literally “to stand before/lead/attend to beautifully”
 - He must be a loving, servant-leader and head of his household (including children)

❖ The Awards

- Faithful service as a deacon carries with it the promises of [verse 13](#).
- “Highest of distinctions...” (King George VI)

So What?

- ✓ **Quote:** The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)
- ✓ **Big Idea:** *God has definite ideas about what a church servant-leader should look like.*

Soli Deo Gloria