

The Church's Two Required Officers

There are several conflicting current views about church leadership.

The first is the *Egalitarian View* that teaches that women can lead as pastors and deacons.

The second is the *Complementarian View* (“a soft complementarian interpretation”) which advocates that only men lead as pastors but women can be deacons. This form of leadership has Lay Elder rule. This is Presbyterian church government which consists of one Teaching Elder and lay elders who lead the church and deacons who manage the physical plant. This view allows women to help with this non-leadership ministry. Paul said both pastors and deacons were to be “the husbands of one wife.”

The third is the *Hierarchical View* (“the hard complementarian interpretation”) which teaches that men serve as pastors and deacons which is the correct view according to 1 Timothy 2:7-3:13.

There are Two (not three) Offices Required in Scripture for the Local Church

1. *The Office of Pastor in 1 Timothy 3:1-7* (Also called “elder” and “bishop”)

There is singularity of bishop or senior pastor (1 Tim 3:1-7) and plurality of elders or ordained pastors or associate pastors (Acts 14:23).

2. *The Office of Deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-13*

A. The Importance of the office of deacons

- 1) The offices of the church are in juxtaposition in 1 Timothy 1:1-13
- 2) The qualifications of the two offices are similar

B. The Meaning of the office and word “deacon”

- 1) The unofficial deacons or servants
Christ (Mk 10:45); Paul (1 Tim 1:12); Apollos (1 Cor 3:5); Timothy (1 Tim 4:6)
- 2) Official deacons (Philippians 1:1)

C. The Origin of deacons (Acts 6:1-7)

- 1) The Seven were the prototypes (the original deacons)
- 2) The Seven were precursors (forerunners of future deacons)
- 3) The Seven were pictures (examples for future deacons)

D. The Duties of the deacons (They serve the church thus enabling the pastor to better serve the Word to the church)

E. The Qualifications of deacons (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)