

## Sermon: “*It’s Your Choice: Choose Wisely*”

### I. The *responsibility* of elders and deacons.

#### A. Elders in two words: **Shepherding care.**

**I Peter 5:1-2** “To the elders among you...Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care,

**John 10:11** “(Jesus said), I am the good shepherd.”

#### B. Deacons in two words: **sensitive compassion.**

**Matthew 20:28** “The Son of Man did not come to be \*served, but to \*serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**\*Greek verb form of “*diakonos*” or “*deacon*”**

### II. The *reason* for having elders and deacons.

**Titus 1:5** “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—“

**Purpose of elders and deacons is to bless and benefit the members of the church. The church does not exist for the officers’ sake; the officers exist for the church’s sake.**

### III. The *requirements* necessary to be elders and deacons.

#### A. Internal desire

**I Peter 5:2** “To the elders ... Be shepherds of God’s flock ...Not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be.”

#### B. External evidence

- 1. Some things a man *must be*.**
- 2. Some things a man *must know*.**
- 3. Some things a man *must be able to do*.**

#### I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1: 6-9

**I Timothy 3:2** “Now the overseer ***must be...***”

**I Timothy 3:8** “Deacons likewise ***must be...***”

25 items; 22 have to do with CHARACTER! 3 have to do with knowledge, gifts and skills. **Clearly character matters!**

#### 1. Some things a man must be:

above reproach,  
the husband of but one wife  
temperate  
self-controlled  
respectable  
hospitable  
not given to drunkenness  
not violent but gentle  
not quarrelsome  
not a lover of money  
not be a recent convert  
have a good reputation with outsiders

worthy of respect  
sincere  
wives worthy of respect  
not pursuing dishonest gain  
blameless  
not overbearing  
not quick-tempered  
not pursuing dishonest gain  
one who loves what is good  
upright  
holy  
disciplined

#### 2. Some things man must know:

**Deacons: I Timothy 3:9** “They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.”

**Elders: Titus 1:9** “He 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.”

#### 3. Some things a man must be able to do.

- 1. I Timothy 3:2** “Able to teach”
- 2. I Timothy 3:4** “He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,”<sup>5</sup>

### IV The *recognition* of elders and deacons by the church

#### A. The inward look

#### B. The outward look

### **C. The upward look**