

1. This portion gives the qualifications for two “jobs” within the assembly. Describe the role of each:

Overseer (also translated as *bishop* and essentially the same as *elder*)

Deacon

2. List the requirements of each position below:

Overseer

Deacon

3. Are the lists identical? Where do they differ and why?

To put it another way:

1 Tim 3:1-3 (NKJV) This [is] a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous...

1 Tim 3:1-3 (NASB) It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires [to do.] 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.

Cross references:

Titus 1:6-8 (ESV) For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

4. Is the ability to become an overseer or deacon a gift of the Spirit, like teaching or prophecy?
5. According to the examples we find in scripture, is there only one overseer for each assembly?
6. Explain verses 6 and 7.
7. For personal meditation: If you wished to become an overseer or deacon, what would you need to work on to be fully qualified? What examples might you take from those you now consider to overseers or deacons?

Cross references:

Phil 1:1 (NIV) Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 12:13 (NIV) Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

1 Tim 6:10 (NKJV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Acts 20:28 (NKJV) Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Don't forget to read *Dig Deeper!*