

Disciples Church

Lesson 71: Wednesday 15, 2017

**Discussion Guide**

**Q110. What are the three primary roles in the local church?**

The Bible distinctly instructs a local church to have qualified elders, qualified deacons, and committed members.

1. How was Pastor’s analogy of the football team helpful to understand the roles of Christ, pastoral elders, deacons, and the members of the church?
2. Read Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 4:15-16, and Colossians 1:18. Why is it important that we always remember that Jesus is the head of this church? How does it hinder us when we make the church about us and not about God?

**Elders:** Qualified and called men who lead, teach, and govern the local church based on the doctrine and authority of Scripture, exercising wisdom in all matters.

1. ReadHebrews 13:7,Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12, Acts 20:28, and Ephesians 4:11-12. Why did God design the local church to have pastoral elders to lead the flock?

**The duties given in scripture that the elders are to carry out**

**Feed the flock**

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:9. Why is the role of rightly teaching the flock the word of God a vital part of the health of the local church?

1. Talk about the impact this has on your life personally and what is at stake if this was not done well?
2. Why is it important the pastoral elders are held accountable to ALWAYS lead according to God’s word?

**Protect the flock**

Read Acts 20:28-31.

Paul applies our watchfulness in two ways:

<a> Elders must watch themselves

8. Why is it essential that our pastoral elders are in healthy, God- honoring, accountable lifestyles?

<b> Elders must keep watch over the church

9. What are different areas in which our elders are responsible for protecting the flock? Why is it important that they do this faithfully?

**Lead the flock**

10. How can we, the church/the flock, follow our elders lead well? What are ways we in our sin don’t do this? How can we grow and repent from this?

**Care for the flock**

11. Elders provide direct care and counseling. These are the practical, everyday life situations when our elders help tend to the sheep. How do you see the importance of our shepherds to truly be shepherds that do not just lord over but care for the sheep?

12. Read Ephesians 4:12.Why is it important that the elders equip others to help care for the sheep?

13. How can we both be a help in this area by being equipped/sent and be patient with our leaders when they are not able to be the ones to tend to the flock in person?

**Stop and pray for our pastoral elders and those who are being prepared to join them as they work hard to feed, protect, lead, and care for God’s flock.**

14. Read: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:9.What kind of man is described here? What about these qualifications stand out as to why these are the things God ordained the readied shepherd have proven?

15. It has been said that the qualifications for pastor/elder are something all Christians should be looking to as markers of Christian maturity and sanctification: Which of these stands out as an area you can focus on to grow and be more sanctified in?

**Deacons:** Qualified and called men who have dedicated, assigned roles of service under the authority of the elders

16. Deacons are a non-authoritative office of the church that is focused on helping the elders and serving the church. Why do you think God gave qualifications for this office in the church?

17. Read Acts 6:1-6. Why did the elders call for deacons to be appointed? What were the qualities they were looking for? How does this change the way we look to our elders and staff to do ALL the work of the ministry?

**Members (local church members):** The saints who make up the local church family. Church members are committed to Scripture and one another.

18. When you read the definitions of dependability, unity, commitment, and accountability on your Hand Out, what is an area you can be more faithful to in our church? Talk about how you can help each other grow in these areas.

19. When you read the “One Anothers” list on your Hand Out, what is one that you can be more faithful to in our church? Talk about how you can help each other grow in these areas.

Close by praying for our:

* Elders and those being prepared to lead in this office.
* Those whom God will raise up to serve as deacons
* Members and those God is preparing to join our family.