

Dangerous Deacons

I. The Ministry of a Deacon

A. Definition

1. *GK Diakonos* - servant, minister, deacon/ deaconess
2. First applied to the Jerusalem Seven - *Acts 6:1-6*
3. Traditionally applied to Stephen and Philip - *Acts 7 and 8*
4. Used to describe an assistant/ helps to the bishop - *Philippians 1:1*

B. Duties - *I Timothy 3:8-10*

1. Worthy of respect - full of faith and the Holy Spirit
2. Sincere - authentic in word and deed
3. Not indulging in much wine - balanced life
4. Not pursuing dishonest gain - serve God
5. Hold the deep truths of the faith - understanding truth
6. Hold to a clear conscience - understanding grace
7. Must be tested - a time for examination, accountable to the Church

C. Historical Functions

1. Position held for life - collect and distribute money - *3rd Century*
2. Lead worship, Scripture reading and prayers - *4th Century*
3. Became a stage in preparation for ordination - *10th Century*
4. Assist pastor in the duties of the Church - *17th Century*

D. Deaconesses

1. Served the Eastern Church throughout history
 - a. Care of the sick and poor
 - b. Instruction for women in the Church-communion and baptism
2. Established in Protestant Churches in 1836 - Germany, United Kingdom and USA
3. Methodists employed deaconesses in 1888—Free Methodist Church

II. An Example of a Deaconess - *Romans 16:1-2*

A. Servant of the Church

1. She comes from Cenchrea near Corinth
2. She is commended by the Apostle Paul
3. She is first among a great list of saints

B. Receive in the Lord

1. She is to be treated with respect and honor
2. She is to be assisted in any way
3. She has been a great help to the Church and to Paul

III. Women Ministers

A. Women Deacons/ Deaconesses - *I Timothy 3:11*

1. Worthy of respect - full of faith and Holy Spirit
2. Not malicious talkers - able to control their tongue
3. Temperate and trustworthy - solid leaders

B. Women Apostles - *Romans 16:7*

1. Junia was outstanding among the Apostles
2. Junia was in Christ before Paul

C. Women Prophets - *I Corinthians 11:5-10*

1. A woman should cover her head when she speaks
2. Thus a woman is allowed to speak for the strengthening, encouragement and comfort

Electrifying Elders

I. The Ministry of an Elder

A. Definition

1. *GK Presbuterio* - older, spiritual mature leaders
2. Used in the Old Testament for the tribal leaders - *Numbers 11:16*
3. Used in the New Testament for Jewish leadership - *Matthew 16:21*
4. Denoted the Council Assembly of the Jewish religious leaders - *Luke 22:66/Acts 22:5*
5. Applied to the appointed spiritual leaders of the Church - *Acts 14:23*
6. Used to describe the 24 around the throne - *Revelation 4:4,10; 5:5-14; et al*
7. Intermixed with the title of bishop or overseer until 2nd Century - *I Timothy 3:1-7*
 - a. Bishops were in charge of several elders - authority
 - b. Bishops led councils of elders - administration

B. Duties - *Acts 20:17-38/I Timothy 5:17-20/Titus 1:6*

1. Keep watch over themselves and the flock
2. Be shepherds or pastors of the Church
3. Be on guard against false teachers (savage wolves)
4. Worthy of double honor - preachers and teachers
5. Should be rebuked publicly when in sin.
6. Must be blameless
7. Must be a faithful spouse with obedient children.

C. Historical Functions

1. Follows the functions of the synagogue rabbi in administration and teaching - *1st Century*
2. Set apart (ordained) for the work of God - *3rd Century*
3. Major Orders - diaconate/ priesthood/ episcopate - *12th Century*
4. Ordination as a Sacrament - *16th Century*
5. Age restrictions for elders - *19th Century*

D. Free Methodist Elders—Word, Sacrament and Order****

1. Must meet all biblical and ecclesiastical requirements to be an overseer in the Church
2. Only ordained elders may serve as delegate to GC, superintendent or bishop
3. Elders shall administer baptism, communion, solemnize marriages and lead in worship.

II. An Example of an Elder - *II John*

A. A letter from the Elder John

1. From an older person who is deserving of affection, honor and respect
2. From an official in the local church
3. From a direct disciple of one of the Apostles
4. From John the beloved disciple and long-living Elder

B. Practical Pastoral Advice

1. Proclaiming truth and love in Jesus Christ
2. Encouraging obedience to the Word of God
3. Watching out for deceivers and antichrists
4. Practicing discernment before hospitality
5. Sharing complete joy - face to face

Apocalyptic Apostles

I. The Ministry of an Apostle

A. Definitions

1. GK *Apostalos* - sent forth, messenger, herald, delegate
2. Used to describe Jesus Christ - *Hebrews 3:1*
3. First applied to the 12 disciples - *Luke 6:13-16*
4. Used by Paul - *Galatians 1:1*
5. Often used to describe the leader of the first mission to a place
ie Patrick, Apostle of Ireland

B. Duties - *Luke 10:1-16/ Acts 6:2/ I Corinthians 9:1*

1. Pray for the harvest of souls
2. Live simply - clothes, food, housing
3. Give a blessing
4. Heal the sick
5. Preach the Kingdom
6. Ministry of Word and Prayer
7. Servants of Christ

C. Historical Notes

1. Other Apostles in Scripture - Andronicus, Junias, Silas, Timothy, Barnabas, Matthias and Epaphroditus - *1st Century*
2. Apostolic Fathers - following the NT period - *2nd Century*
3. Apostles' Creed - *4th Century*
4. Apostolic Secession - connected to the Apostles - *19th Century*

D. Apostolic Controversy

1. Gift or Office? - *I Corinthians 12:27-31*
2. Only 12 Apostles? - *Romans 1:1*
3. Are there Apostles today? - *I Corinthians 9:1*
4. False Apostles and Super Apostles? - *II Corinthians 11:1-15*

III. An Example of an Apostle

A. Defending the Apostolic Call - *I Corinthians 9:1-18*

1. Paul has seen the Lord - first hand
2. Paul's ministry has been effective: Conversion - discipleship - ministry
3. Paul did not hinder the gospel of Christ

B. Preaching the Gospel - *I Corinthians 15:1-8*

1. Christ died for sins according to Scriptures
2. Christ was buried
3. Christ was raised on the 3rd day according to Scriptures
4. Christ appeared to Peter, the Twelve, the 500, James and then Paul

C. Receiving Grace - *I Corinthians 15:9-11*

1. Grace is aggressive forgiveness - the gift of gifts to a lost world
2. Grace for conversion - the power of forgiveness in a broken life
3. Grace for discipleship - the power of Christ in a life of faith
4. Grace for ministry - the power of the Holy Spirit in a life of service

Piercing Prophets

I. The Ministry of the Prophet

A. Definitions

1. H - *ro'eh* - seer, connected with God
2. H - *nabi* - foreteller, ecstatic, messenger
3. GK - *prophetes* - proclaimer, speaking forth, interpreter
4. Used to describe Jesus Christ - *Matthew 16:13-16*
5. Listed in the New Testament Church leadership - *Ephesians 4:11*
6. Listed as a gift for both men and women - *I Corinthians 12:28/Acts 21:9*

B. Duties - *I Corinthians 14:3; 24-25*

1. to edify, comfort and encourage the body of Christ
2. to convince people they are sinners
3. to make known the secrets of the heart
4. to promote the worship of God

C. Historical Notes

1. Some Apostolic Fathers claimed to be prophets e.g. Ignatius and Hermas-*2nd Century*
2. Starting dying out after the Church councils - *3rd Century*
3. Expectation that prophets would be restored at the end times

D. The Hebrew Prophets Speak about the Messiah

1. Joel - proclaims justice and hope with a great blessing
2. Jonah - serves as an example of the living—dying—living Messiah
3. Nahum - reveals God's power and God's victory
4. Obadiah - shows deliverance, holiness and blessings for God's people
5. Amos - introduces the royal Messiah to Israel
6. Hosea - models the suffering Messiah through his life
7. Micah - gives the future promise concerning the Messiah
8. Isaiah - describes the prophet, priest and king who will come
9. Zephaniah - shows the sovereignty of God
10. Habakkuk - cries out for mercy and deliverance
11. Jeremiah - stereotypes the Messiah by his words and life
12. Ezekiel - describes the Son of Man as a watchman and great shepherd
13. Daniel - sees the anointed ruler over all
14. Haggai - talks about the glory of God and his temple
15. Zechariah - reveals a prince, builder, shepherd and fountain for the future

II. Example of a Prophet - *Acts 21:10-16*

A. Agabus the Prophet

1. Spoke about the great famine - *Acts 11:27-30*
2. Speaks to the Apostle Paul

B. A Word from God

1. A Personal Word - Paul's belt and Paul's life
2. A Spiritual Word - "The Holy Spirit Says"
3. A Prophetic Word - Paul's future revealed
4. A Received Word - The Lord's will be done

Excitable Evangelists

I. The Ministry of the Evangelist

A. Definitions

1. GK - *euangelistes* - a message of good news, proclaimer, preacher
2. Used to describe the traveling missionary - *Acts 21:8/ II Timothy 4:5*
3. Used to describe Philip who was also a deacon - *Acts 8*
4. Listed in the New Testament Church leadership - *Ephesians 4:11*
5. Traditionally applied to the Four Gospels - *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

B. Duties - *Mark 16:15-16/ Romans 10:8-17/ II Timothy 4:1-5*

1. Preach the good news to all creation
2. Baptize those who believe - signs of grace will follow
3. Proclaim the Word of faith about Jesus Christ
4. Preach the Word - in season and out of season
5. Correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction
6. Keep your head in all situations
7. Endure hardships
8. Do your work of bringing the message of Christ
9. Discharge all the duties of your ministry

C. Historical Notes

1. Used throughout Church history for those who preach - *1st– 15th Centuries*
2. Describes the Lutheran Movement in the reformation - *16th Century*
3. Often used to describe global mission movements - *19th Century*
4. Applied to lay people who undertake popular preaching - *20th Century*

II. An Example of An Evangelist - *Acts 8:26-40*

A. Philip the Evangelist

1. Receives a message from God—from an angel
2. Obeys the word from God - goes forth in obedience
3. Encounters the Ethiopian Eunuch going home from Temple worship
4. Listens to the Holy Spirit - specific instructions about the situation

B. A Divine Moment

1. Introduction - “Do you understand what you are reading?”
2. Invitation - “How can I unless someone explains it to me?”
3. Connection - *The Word of God*
4. Commission - “Tell me, please....”
5. Conviction - “Why shouldn't I be baptized?”

C. Signs, Wonders and Miracles

1. Salvation, deliverance, healing and sanctification— all miracles of grace
2. The supernatural is a natural part of the Christian’s life—holy expectations
3. Jesus did and still does signs, wonders and miracles –*Acts 2:22*
4. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever-*Hebrews 13:8*

Patient Pastors

I. The Ministry of the Pastor

A. Definitions

1. GK - *poimen* - a shepherd, herdsman, caretaker, guide
2. Used by Jesus to describe himself - *John 10:11*
3. Used to describe Jesus as the “Great Shepherd” - *Hebrews 13:20*
4. Used to describe Jesus as the “Chief Shepherd” - *I Peter 5:4*
5. Listed in the New Testament Church leadership - *Ephesians 4:11*

B. Duties - *John 10:1-5/ Acts 20:28-31/ I Peter 5:2-4*

1. Enter the ministry with integrity and honesty
2. Respond to the call of God
3. Speak the Word of God to the people
4. Lead the flock
5. Be shepherds of the church
6. Be on guard against false teachers
7. Serve as overseers with a willing heart
8. Be eager to serve - not greedy
9. Be an example to the flock - not bossy

C. Historical Notes

1. Pastoral Epistles - practical letters written by the Apostle Paul - *1st Century*
2. Pastoralia - the principles of life and conduct for the local pastor - *6th Century*
3. Parish Priest - used to describe local church ministry - *10th Century*
4. Pastor - title used by Lutherans to denote local church clergy - *16th Century*

II. Example of a Pastor - *James 1:19-27*

A. Holy Listening

1. Quick to listen - listening to God, others, self
2. Slow to speak - earning the right to speak
3. Slow to become angry - learning the way of peace and patience
4. Humbly accept the Word of God - opening the door of the heart

B. Holy Obedience

1. Respond to the Word of God - putting your faith into action
2. Gaze upon the Law of God - living in the freedom of Christ

C. Holy Faith

1. Controlling the tongue - tight rein
2. Caring for the orphans and widows - pure and faultless
3. Keeping oneself from being polluted - holiness

III. Pastoral Theology

- A. Conducting public worship and administering the Sacraments
- B. Preaching and teaching the Word of God
- C. Caring for the sick and dying
- D. Promoting the study of theology, morals and ethics
- E. Discipling, training and equipping new believers in faith and witness

Techno Teachers

I. The Ministry of the Teacher

A. Definitions

1. GK - *didaskalos* - teacher, instructor, trainer
2. Used to describe a Jewish office associated with the Pharisees - *Matthew 8:19*
3. Used to describe Jesus Christ - *Matthew 22:16*
4. Affiliated with the Hebrew word *rabbi* (my great one) - *John 1:38*
5. Listed in the New Testament Church leadership - *Ephesians 4:11*
6. Used by Paul to describe himself - *II Timothy 1:11*

B. Duties - *Titus 2:1-10/ James 3:1*

1. Teach sound doctrine - orthodoxy
2. Teach older men to be temperate, respectful, controlled and faithful
3. Teach older women to be reverent and good examples to others
4. Encourage the young men to be self-controlled
5. Teach employees to be submissive, pleasing, honest, respectful and trustworthy
6. Do not presume to be a teacher - judgment

C. Warnings - *Matthew 23:1-36*

1. Do not be a roadblock to God's kingdom
2. Do not make replicas of your sin-stained self
3. Do not forsake the promises of God for greed or power
4. Do not neglect justice, mercy and faithfulness
5. Do not forget to clean your heart and your mind
6. Do not be filled with hypocrisy and self-righteousness
7. Do not commit the same sins your parents did

II. An Example of a Teacher

A. Paul Leaves Titus on Crete - *Titus 1:5,13*

1. To straighten out what was left unfinished
2. To appoint elders in every town
3. To rebuke the false teachers sharply

B. Titus Teaches By Example - *Titus 2:7-8,15*

1. Doing what is good
2. Showing integrity, seriousness and soundness
3. Encouraging and rebuke with all authority

C. Titus Teaches the Gospel - *Titus 2:11-14*

1. God's grace has appeared - Jesus Christ
2. God's grace teaches that a decision must be made
3. God's grace gives hope that Christ will come again
4. God's grace redeems and purifies those with faith