

THE SPECIAL OFFICES IN THE CHURCH

ELDERS and DEACONS

WHY THIS SUBJECT?

- **Because office-bearers are needed for the future of this church. (Titus 1:5)**
 - **Because all of us need a clear and correct understanding of what office-bearers are, and what they must do.**
 - **Because all the men here need to consider being and then to prepare to be office-bearers one day, the Lord willing.**
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TOPICS:

- **#1 – Desiring to be an Office-bearer**
- **#2 – Preparing to be an Office-bearer**
- **#3 – What the Special Offices Are**
- **#4 – The Elder and his Work**
- **#5 – The Deacon and his Work**
- **#6 – How Office-bearers are Chosen**
- **#7 – Our Calling toward Office-bearers**

THE SPECIAL OFFICES IN THE CHURCH

**#1: DESIRING TO BE AN
OFFICE-BEARER**

I TIMOTHY 3:1

- *“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.”*
- *“Tapat ang salita: Kung ang sinuman ay naghahangad na maging obispo, siya ay nagnanais ng mabuting gawain.”*

EXPLANATION OF I TIMOTHY 3:1

- I Timothy 3:2ff sets forth the qualifications one must have in order to be an office-bearer.
- The qualifications are strict, thus men might conclude they can never be office-bearers.
- I Timothy 3:1 comes first, and encourages men to desire to be office-bearers.
- What vs. 1 states concerning “bishops” (elders) applies to all three special offices.
- Every man in the church must ask himself: *“Do I have this good desire for this good work?”*

A WRONG DESIRE

1) Desiring it for the wrong reasons:

- Want to be noticed, popular, praised
- Want to have power and be in control
- Want to be in office so can push an agenda
- Want to be a pastor because of status or income

2) Desiring it in the wrong ways:

- Pushing yourself forward. Trying to solicit a call to one of the special offices.
- Pride – thinking to yourself, and/or even saying, that you can do the work better than others.

PROVERBS 27:2

“Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”

ROMANS 12:3

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly ...”

THE PROPER DESIRE

- 1) TO SERVE** – a desire to serve Christ and His church with the abilities He has given you. Rom. 1:1, Rom. 12:3ff, I Cor. 12:12ff.
- 2) HUMILITY** – realizing no one (including you) is perfectly qualified, thus depending always on Christ. Philippians 4:13.
- 3) SUBMISSION** – realizing Christ chooses whom He pleases (Acts 13:2, Acts 20:28), and thus if you are not chosen you submit to that.