

## I Believe In Kingdom Leadership

Apostles are the ones seen in the Book of Acts providing governmental leadership. However, before long we find mention of Elders and Deacons. There are three levels of governmental leadership in the New Testament. They are the Apostles, Elders and Deacons.

Deacons are to do more than take care of the physical building and serve communion. **Acts 6:1-7**. Deacons had to be men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They had to be someone capable of being appointed over church business. Deacons were not just old ladies and old men assigned to clean the church. The Deacons were manage people. They were to be capable organizers and administrators. In the New Testament, the Deacons were people who knew how to coordinate the work. Deacons were men and women who knew how to exercise wisdom and insure that the right people were in the right place. They were responsible for making sure the goals and objectives of the vision were quickly and honestly carried out.

In the New Testament the Deacons are for serving the flock as directed by Apostles, but the Elders are for ruling the flock. They are to rule the Deacons and all other ministries and ministry leaders in the church with the exception of the Pastor.

The first mention of Elders is in **Acts 11:27-30**. Notice how the text speaks about the Elders. **Acts 14:23; Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22-24**. The Apostles and Elders were part of a leadership group that provided government and supervision in the Kingdom of God.

Can women be Elders? Look at the roles and function of women in the New Testament. **Acts 18:1, 2, 18. Romans 16:3**. Notice the order of the names. The man is mentioned first, but later in ministry the woman is mentioned first. Her gifts in ministry had grown to the point where she is the lead in ministry. A modern example would be Joyce Meyers. Although she is married, she is the one leading the ministry. **Roman 16:1, 2**. Phebe took care of church business. **1 Timothy 5:1, 2**. The term Elder women is the same term for Elder men with just a change in the ending. **Titus 1:5, 6**. The term for Elders in verse 5 is the same word used for Elder women in 1 Timothy. When we look in the New Testament, we find God is using women mightily in many areas of ministry.

In the New Testament, the Apostles would establish the leadership in the local church by putting someone in authority to make sure the will of God is done in that body. They would set a man in place as the leading Elder or Pastoral Elder over that flock. Other Elders would be appointed and added as the ministry grows. The Pastor or set man along with the Elders would pastor the congregation. The Deacons are to report to the Elders. The Elders report to the "set man" and the "set man" reports to the Apostles.