

Body Basics: Ministry Roles

Various Passages

Elders:

1Ti 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of **overseer**, it is a fine work he desires to do. ²An **overseer**, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ... (NASB)

1Ti 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a **bishop**, he desireth a good work. ²A **bishop** then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ... (KJV)

<3:1> Πιστὸς ὁ λόγος. Εἴ τις ἐπισκοπῆς ὀρέγεται, καλοῦ ἔργου ἐπιθυμεῖ. <3:2> δεῖ οὖν τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἀνεπίληπτον εἶναι, μῆς γυναικὸς ἄνδρα, νηφάλιον σώφρονα κόσμιον φιλόξενον διδακτικόν,

1985 ἐπισκοπό episkopos {ep-is'-kop-os}
from 1909 and 4649 (in the sense of 1983); TDNT - 2:608,244; n m
AV - bishop 6, overseer 1; 7

- 1) an overseer
 - 1a) a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent
 - 1b) the superintendent, elder, or overseer of a Christian church

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for 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.

<20:28> προσέχετε ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ, ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔθετο **ἐπισκόπους** **ποιμαίνειν** τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἣν περιεποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ ἰδίου.

4165 ποιμαίνο poimaino {poy-mah'-ee-no}
from 4166; TDNT - 6:485,901; v
AV - feed 6, rule 4, feed cattle 1; 11

- 1) to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep
 - 1a) to rule, govern
 - 1a1) of rulers
 - 1a2) to furnish pasture for food
 - 1a3) to nourish
 - 1a4) to cherish one's body, to serve the body
 - 1a5) to supply the requisites for the soul's need

1Ti 5:17 Let the **elders** who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

<5:17> Οἱ καλῶς προεστῶτες **πρεσβύτεροι** διπλῆς τιμῆς ἀξιούσθωσαν, μάλιστα οἱ κοπιῶντες ἐν λόγῳ καὶ διδασκαλίᾳ. <5:18> λέγει γὰρ ἡ γραφή, Βοῦν ἀλοῶντα οὐ φιμώσεις, καί, "Ἄξιός ὁ ἐργάτης τοῦ μισθοῦ αὐτοῦ. <5:19> κατὰ πρεσβυτέρου κατηγορίαν μὴ παραδέχου, ἐκτὸς εἰ μὴ ἐπὶ δύο ἢ τριῶν μαρτύρων.

4245 πρεσβυτερό presbuteros {pres-boo'-ter-os}
comparative of presbus (elderly); TDNT - 6:651,931; adj
AV - elder 64, old man 1, eldest 1, elder woman 1; 67

- 1) elder, of age,
 - 1a) the elder of two people
 - 1b) advanced in life, an elder, a senior
 - 1b1) forefathers
- 2) a term of rank or office
 - 2a) among the Jews
 - 2a1) members of the great council or Sanhedrin (because in early times the rulers of the people, judges, etc., were selected from elderly men)
 - 2a2) of those who in separate cities managed public affairs and administered justice
 - 2b) among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies (or churches) The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably
 - 2c) the twenty four members of the heavenly Sanhedrin or court seated on thrones around the throne of God

Deacons:

1Tim3:8 **Deacons** likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹*but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

<3:8> **Διακόνους** ὡσαύτως σεμνοῦς, μὴ διλόγους, μὴ οἴνω πολλῶ προσέχοντας, μὴ αἰσχροκερδεῖς,

AV - minister 20, servant 8, deacon 3; 31

- 1) one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister
 - 1a) the servant of a king
 - 1b) a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use
 - 1c) a waiter, one who serves food and drink

The Body:

Eph. 4:11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. (NASB)

¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (KJV)

What is the work of those who hold the position of "saint?"