**Local Church Organization**

**Not** like the organizations of **men Matt. 20:25-28; 1 Corinthians 12:28**

Very **simple** **Philippians 1:1** with the **bishops** & **deacons**

Each church **autonomous** & **independent** of other congregations **1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 14:23**

**Deacons**

**Deacons** are **servants Acts 6:1-4** “**serve** tables”

DIAKONEO **Verb** form of **deacon**

Also in **John 12:2,26; Rom. 15:25**

Their focus is on **details** and **logistics** so **elders** can focus on **spiritual** leadership **Acts 6:4**

**Qualities of Deacons**

**Acts 6:3**

1. Good reputation **trusted** **character**

2. Full of the Holy Spirit **spiritual character**

3. Full of wisdom **competent** for the task

**1 Timothy 3:8-13**

Likewise (see **v. 1-7**)

1. Reverent (respected for being respectable)

Not double-tongued a must for **honest** dealing

Not given to much wine (**impairs** **judgment**)

**Not** **greedy** for money (**root** of all kinds of **evil**)

2. Holding the mystery of **faith** with a **pure conscience** (**integrity** based on Christ-like principles in His **word**)

 **Qualification of Deacons**

**First** **tested**, then found **blameless v.10**

3. **How** tested **v.11-12** behavior of wives **v.11**,ruling children and house **well** **v.12**

 **Tested** **Character**

+ **Tested Competence**

 **Confidence** of others

 **Bishops**

**Bishop** literally means **overseer**

**Acts 20:17,28 elders** (**v.17**)are told to take heed to all the **flock** (local **church**) over which the Holy Spirit made them **overseers**, to **shepherd** (pastor)the **church** of the Lord which He purchased with His own blood **1 Peter 5:1-3**

Focus on **spiritual leadership**

Focus on **spiritual leadership**

Expected to **take care of** the church of God **1 Tim. 3:5** like a shepherd

**Luke 10:34-35 not by proxy**

**James 5:13-16 visit** the sick

**Matt. 25:36-43**

**Looking diligently** so none fall away **Heb. 12:14**

**Qualification of Bishops**

Similar to qualification for deacons (“likewise”—**v.8**)

(Deacons **first tested** (**v.10**) in the **home** (**v.11-12**) **as** the **bishops. Deacon’s character** found **blameless** (**v.10**). **proven** **character** and **proven competence** as an effective **manager** of the home

**Bishops** must be **proven** as **successful spiritual guides** of their families (**v.4-5**)

Independently godly children **Prov. 27:11**

**Everyone** (even outsiders) must see he is an effective spiritual leader and **blameless** (**v.7**)