

15 June 2014: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **The Roles of Elders and Deacons in Church**

Scripture Text: Acts 20:28-35; Acts 6:1-4

1. The biblical qualifications for elders and deacons are not based on physical criteria or worldly attainments but rather are all spiritual. They must possess all the spiritual qualifications though not a perfect person. In areas that they are not strong in, they should pray and work harder to improve by God's grace.
2. The biblical qualifications are listed in 1 Tim 3. It is not just the leaders but all members should strive for all these spiritual qualities. A God-pleasing Church is where all members possess all these spiritual qualities and then those who have the desire and calling will be chosen to serve as leaders.
3. The roles of the elders can be seen from Acts 20:28-35. They first have a personal duty to take heed unto themselves to be close to God through prayer and study of His Word. They must consistently and continually strive for spiritual growth in their own lives.
4. Another important role for elders is to take care of all the flock under their care. They are to protect, guard and feed the sheep. Every single sheep matters to them. The elders must know that they are not appointed by men but by God. It is really the Holy Spirit that has made them to be overseers of the flock. The elder must not think himself to be superior over the flock but rather he is an under-shepherd.
5. The elder must not enrich himself but rather live a life of integrity and giving towards God and men. The motto of the elders must be "It is more blessed to give than to receive".
6. The roles of the deacons as recorded in Acts 6 is to assist the elders in the administration of the Church. This will ensure the elders are not distracted from their main focus in preaching the Word and prayer. The deacons are to be filled with the Holy Spirit i.e. to be control by the Holy Spirit with heavenly wisdom and guidance.