

KEEPING THE CHURCH ACCEPTABLE & APPROACHABLE:

To both God and Neighbors

1 TIMOTHY 3 & TITUS 1

Cov Pres

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ONE: Ephesians 5:25-33 REVIEW

As we are made to marry Christ first and only then a spouse (*last week's teaching*) AND only the Loved know how to be corrected and correct, God desires officers who serve him and his gospel for the church with the same love.

TWO: 1 Timothy and Titus

As we prepare to nominate brothers into the process by which they might become elders and deacons we need to see that Scripture places at the center their concern for the reputation of Christ, that his gospel glory and grace might be shown through the church.

THREE:

Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest and King is an Elder and a Deacon

From the Preface to the PCA Book of Church Order: *The King and Head of the Church*

Jesus Christ, upon whose shoulders the government rests, whose name is called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace; of the increase of whose government and peace there shall be no end; who sits upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom to order it and to establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth, even forever (Isaiah 9:6-7); having all power given unto Him in heaven and in earth by the Father, who raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand, far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:20-23); He, being ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things, received gifts for His Church, and gave all offices necessary for the edification of His Church and the perfecting of His saints (Ephesians 4:10-13).

Jesus, the Mediator, the sole Priest, Prophet, King, Saviour, and Head of the Church, contains in Himself, by way of eminency, all the offices in His Church, and has many of their names attributed to Him in the Scriptures. He is Apostle, Teacher, Pastor, Minister, Bishop and the only Lawgiver in Zion. It belongs to His Majesty from His throne of glory to rule and teach the Church through His Word and Spirit by the ministry of men; thus mediately exercising His own authority and enforcing His own laws, unto the edification and establishment of His Kingdom.

Christ, as King, has given to His Church officers, oracles and ordinances; and especially has He ordained therein His system of doctrine, government, discipline and worship, all of which are either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary inference may be deduced therefrom; and to which things He commands that nothing be added, and that from them naught be taken away.

Since the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven, He is present with the Church by His Word and Spirit, and the benefits of all His offices are effectually applied by the Holy Ghost

FOUR:

Elders and Deacons both care for the reputation of Christ and His Church, seeking to keep the church acceptable and approachable to God and our neighbors.

Dick Lucas (paraphrased): We want neither to divide the church or to disgust our neighbors.

Qualifications for Elders in 1 Timothy and Titus

1 Timothy

[3:2](#) above reproach
[3:2](#) sober-minded
[3:2](#) self-controlled
[3:2](#) respectable
[3:2](#) hospitable
[3:2](#) able to teach
[3:3](#) not a drunkard
[3:3](#) not violent but gentle
[3:3](#) not quarrelsome
[3:3](#) not a lover of money
[3:4-5](#) manage his own household well, care for God's church
[3:4](#) keeping his children submissive
[3:6](#) not a recent convert
[3:7](#) well thought of by outsiders
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Titus

[1:6](#) husband of one wife
[1:8](#) disciplined
[1:8](#) self-controlled
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[1:8](#) hospitable
[1:9](#) able to give instruction
[1:7](#) not . . . a drunkard
[1:7](#) not . . . violent
[1:7](#) not be arrogant or quick-tempered
[1:7](#) not . . . greedy for gain
[1:7](#) God's steward
[1:6](#) children are believers (or "faithful"), not insubordinate
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[1:8](#) a lover of good; upright, holy

Qualifications for Deacons in 1 Timothy 3

[3:8](#) dignified
[3:8](#) not double-tongued
[3:8](#) not addicted to much wine
[3:8](#) not greedy for dishonest gain
[3:9](#) clear conscience
[3:10](#) tested
[3:10](#) blameless
[3:12](#) husband of one wife
[3:12](#) managing children and household well

From ESV Study Bible, pp. 2329-30

The church, the body of Christ, is crucial to God's plan and to you:

1 Corinthians 12:12–13

- 12** For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.
- 13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

*A body without a spirit is a corpse.
A spirit without a body is a spook.*