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Qualifications, Election and Ordaining of a Deacon

1 TIMOTHY 3 : 8 - 12

8 *Likewise [must] the deacons [be] grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;*

9 *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*

10 *And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being [found] blameless.*

11 *Even so [must their] wives [be] grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*

12 *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

The first Deacons

ACTS 6 : 3 - 8

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid [their] hands on them.

7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

The Board can appoint Deacons

And then while this meeting was going on, and was told by the assistant pastor that we--selecting of the new board of deacons, that these had served their time out and--and resigned, and it was to select some more deacons. Now, the church... The way this is done is the board can appoint deacons, men that they have associated with and found to be honorable and just men.

The office of a deacon is a very great office, and a great honor to the Lord to be a deacon in the church. And so in the meeting the other night, certain man was called out to me. And when meeting with the pastor, the following--this last Friday, which was agreed by this man that these were honorable and just men.

One young man that they had found, was not exactly qualified (not because that he wasn't the right type of man), one that was suggested by one of the honorable men of our trustee board. But as the pastor and I came together, and I asked the age of the young man, he was in his early twenties: honorable, just, and a real man, but find out that he was a single man. The Bible requires a deacon to be a married man. He must be the husband of one wife.

And then another man which was a very honorable man, very qualified for the job and would made a loyal man, as a brother suggested him. Then after investigating the case,

that the brother had just recently come into this faith; his wife doesn't believe in it. Then that disqualified the man as the office, because he must have all his family in subjection. They must be also in the faith, because it would be a conflict.

Placing Of Deacons - 58-0720E

The Board and the Pastor select honorable men

And we're building now, and we wish to place this church. And as the general overseer of the church, I must see that it's kept Scripturally, everything right on the Word.

And so therefore, then it has been found favorable with the board and the pastor, and the overseer, to select in this group of people here some men who we think to be honorable and just men. We can only bring them. And it's then they are appointed by the church, by their own vote. And then these men shall serve, if they feel that they will accept this office. Then they will come for a short time to see if they feel that maybe that God has called them. And if later, if they feel that they are disqualified, then they have a right in the next few weeks to resign the office, that someone else could be appointed in their place.

Placing Of Deacons - 58-0720E

The Word must be carried out in Godly order

There you are; that's up to you to vote your own teachers in. And you ought to do that. Put them in there; get somebody. And meet with the church, and say, "Who's... Who here feels led of the Lord?" And then get a qualified teacher. And then let it be done. It's got to be strictly business, brethren. If the teacher can't qualify to it, then change teachers.

When the time comes, as under God, if I feel like that Ormand Neville can't no more qualify to be pastor here, I'm going to mention it to the church. When I see one thing here, think that you deacons couldn't qualify to be deacons, I'm going to mention it to the church, that, "I find out there's a certain deacon out here doing something he shouldn't do, and he doesn't keep his post of duty," and so forth like that, or a trustee, or whatever it is. I can't vote it in or out, the church has to do that, but I'm certainly going to present it before the church. See, because that's what I should do. That's what I'm supposed to be. As overseer, I'm supposed to look and see what's going on. We're going to heaven, not out here somewhere to a rally or something to have a lot of fun and run over one another, and play baseball. We're here having the most gracious thing there is on earth, the Word of God, and it's to be carried on in godly order.

Church Order - 63-1226

The Church is controlled by the Bible and Holy Spirit

And--and if you say, "Well, I--I believe if I belong to the Methodist church or Baptist church, I'll be saved anyhow." All right, brother, that's perfectly all right. I'm still calling you my brother, because you believe Jesus Christ. See? That's right. So we're going to be brothers and friends just the same.

But I'm just laying down to this church, this few days here, the doctrine that this church stands for. See? That's what the church stands for. And if there's a deacon here that doesn't believe in the baptism in Jesus Christ's Name, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the gifts of the Spirit being manifest, that deacon, right here while I'm standing here, doesn't

deserve to be in the church until he gets made right. That's exactly right. And the board ought to see to that. Exactly. This church is not controlled by deacons; this church is controlled by the Bible and the Holy Ghost alone. Yes, sir. Now, so them things, we believe that's the doctrine of this church.

QA Image Of The Beast - 54-0515

The Church is sovereign

And that is, that the first is the placing some deacons into the church. And our little church here is sovereign. It doesn't have any denomination or anything to send its deacons; it elects its own deacons. It elects its pastor; it elects its trustees; it elects everything that comes in and out of the church. No one person has the say-so over anything; it's the church. And the church are those who come and support the church with their presence, with their tithes and offerings, are always the ones that has legal say-so in the placing of such.

And I want to thank the past board of deacons, and I say it from here for all the church. If any of those brethren are here, which was Brother Cox, Brother Fleeman, and Brother Higginbotham and Brother Deatsman, they have give us a good service, give the Lord, in this Tabernacle.

Placing Of Deacons - 58-0720E

Automatically fill their time

And every so often, according to the bylaws of the church, every year, the deacons or trustees automatically fill their time. And if they want to come back, all right. If they do not want to come back, then they can place some in their places, that this board has resigned.

And the other night I called the trustee board, which there is a new board of trustees. Till I noticed Brother Luther McDowell here tonight; we're glad to see him in, which was formerly on the trustee board. I went down this week to find out and to check into having a photostatic copy made, which will be presented to the church also. That the trustees of the church now is Brother William Morgan, Brother Mike Egan, and Brother Banks Wood, and Brother Roy Roberson. And they're all of this city, except Brother Roberson that lives between the two cities. The Lord has seen fit in those men, and they have been honorable men, and they have now received the duty as trustees of this church.

Placing Of Deacons - 58-0720E

Every year the offices expires

Now, in the nomination a few moments ago, of a new trustee, Brother Sothmann. I'm sure that the trustees, and all, are aware now, that, at the end of fiscal year, in first of January, that all offices of the church, such as pastors and deacons, and so forth, expires. Then if they want to continue on... Not pastors; I didn't mean that. I meant trustees, and deacons, and Sunday school teachers, and so forth. That, the pastor is elected in by the church, and he stays until, until. And then--then they... If the people, the present board of trustees, or deacons, or Sunday school teachers, or what more, if they want to continue on, they just continue on. If they don't, then they have--they have to resign if they don't want to

continue on; and there is nothing again' them. Then they continue on for the next year. And--and then if they do not continue on, then they have an election, and appoint some other trustee, or--or whatever the office was.

Therefore, it doesn't pin a man down, to his lifetime, to serve on a board. But as long as he feels that God is with him and helping him, and he wants to do his part, or her part, whatever it might be, to continue on with the work of God, we are always happy to have them to serve with us. See? But that way it gives a person a chance to serve for a year and see how they like it. Some of our trustees stay on for years and years and years, and deacons also, and that's perfectly fine. But then there is no set time. If the trustee, or pastor, or someone on the board, doesn't feel that they can serve any longer, or moving out, then they just notify the church, that they can get somebody in their place.

Super Sense - 59-1227E

You must stand by your offices

Now, there is a group of offices of our church, deacons, trustees, Sunday school superintendent, pastor, as our church is set in order. And you the people elected these officers and this pastor. I'm just general overseer to see it goes on right, and to give advice and so forth. You are the one who elects your pastor; you elect your trustees; you elect your deacons; you elect every office there is in this church, you the people. And it's your duty to stand by those men (See?) for they'll make mistakes. They're mortals; they're just men, and they'll make mistakes. But if the President of United States makes a mistake, do we throw him out as President? We forget about it and move on. That's the way we want to do our church now.

I was listening to him pray a few minutes ago for those deacons, and to hear back there a testimony at the door from the trustees, how that with one accord you all are. Now, stay that way. Now, you members stand by these trustees, deacons, and pastor. And remember, when you get this together, remember that it's the Devil's business to see that that's broke up. Now, it's always has been and it always will be. But you stand by your officers, and that was the talk that I was going to make.

A Total Deliverance - 59-0712

Responsibility of a Deacon to the People and to the Pastor

ACTS 6: 1-4

1 *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

2 *Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

3 *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

4 *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

We are here to hold a standard in this Evening Light Time

And remember, God is looking to me to see that I stay in the Word. And I'm looking to you to see that you carry out the Word (See, see?) in this church. And keep it spiritual, for remember, all the forces of--of the dark kingdom of Satan will be turned against you as you begin to grow in the Lord. And you must be soldiers, not just fresh recruits. You're aged soldiers now, and been trained to fight. And Satan will come among you, cause you to dispute with one another if he can. Turn him down just immediately; you're brethren; and it's the enemy. And we're here to hold a standard in this evening Light time, that when the world is darkened and the whole church kingdom is going into the Council of Churches... And pretty soon they'll try to tack a sign on this door here, "Closed!" And then we're going to have to meet other places, 'cause they'll certainly close these churches one of these days if we don't take the mark of the beast. And we're depending on staying true to God till death sets us free, and that's what we intend to do.

Church Order - 63-1226

We are bound to God to uphold these principles

Now, straight to the... And I would ask, that if ever a time that any of these things come into question, that this tape may be played before the members of this church (See?) at your meetings, or prior the meeting, just before the meeting start. Turn this tape on and play it. And may the congregation here understand that these men are duty bound to God, as their oath in this church, to help hold these principles. You may disagree with them; and if I let you run it, then I'll disagree with you. We've got to have some source somewhere where there's got to be a--an ultimate. And the best that I know, I'm giving it under the Holy Spirit, letting Him be my Ultimate. And let this tape be your ultimate on these questions.

Church Order - 63-1226

The Church is responsible for its own

220. How shall the church act towards calls for financial help of--for food and clothing? What--what act, what--what should the church do?

Now, we realize that the church is responsible for its own, for our members here of the church; we are totally responsible as far as we have needs to supply them with. We are responsible for our own; that's steady, constant members of the Tabernacle that come here and worship with us. We are duty bound to them, as our brothers and sisters who have proven to be our members of this gathering.

Now, we realize that there is millions tonight without food, without clothing, and we would love to be able to help the whole group of them, to do everything we could; but financially we cannot do that; we can't support all the world. But we are duty bound to our own. And I think, in that, and then if we have anything left over that you'd want to contribute to people who are not members here of this church, something that you'd want to give to them, it should be met between the board of the deacons.

Church Order - 63-1226

Acts 6 : 1 - 4 – There is where we got our first Deacons

The deacons is the one that--that has to meet this opposition, or this problem, rather; because that in the Bible when the dispute come up about food, and clothing, and so forth, in the Book of Acts, they called the apostles in about it, and they said, "Go look out for yourself seven men of honest report and full of the Holy Ghost that they might attend to these things, because we will give ourself continually to the Word of God and in prayer."

And it isn't the pastor's duty to look out to the--for the food and so forth. That's supposed to be by the deacons. It isn't the trustees; it is the deacons' office to do this. And then this should be... Remember in the Bible they was contributing to their own, the Greeks and the--and the Jewish, where the argument come up that one was getting a little more than the other, but it was people who had sold all their goods and had give it into the church for its support, and then to--to be divided out among them equally. And there was a little dispute come up, and there's where we got our first deacons. And that's one of their duties, is to do that.

Church Order - 63-1226

Clothing, food and financial help should come through the Deacons

I think that, as our own, as our own people, we should take care of them. And it should be turned in, any complaint, to the chairman of the deacon board, and then it should be met by the deacon board and see what they're able to do about it. And all of those things which is clothing, and food, and financial help, or whatever it is, should come through the deacons. Then the deacons, when they decide that they are--that they are--what they're going to do about it, then it should be presented then unto the--the treasurer, to see if the treasurer is able at this time to pay this certain amount of finance, or--or buy these clothing, or whatever it is to that. But the--the deacon board should meet on that, and it doesn't go to the trustees or to the pastor. It's a deacon's thing altogether.

Church Order - 63-1226

A Deacon or Trustee should be in harmony with the doctrine of the

Church

131. Is it ruling, r-u-l-i... Is it ruling that a deacon or a trustee must abide in the doctrine of their church? (Yes. That's right.) Is it lawful for them to add to or take away of the teachings because of their own personal opinion or revelation? (No, sir. No.)

A deacon or a trustee should be perfectly in harmony with the--with the doctrine of their church. They should stay perfectly with the interpretation of the Scriptures of their church, because, if they don't, they're fighting against the very thing... They're--they're hurting themselves. See? You're battling...

It's, other words, like if--if--if I say I love my family and try to feed them poison. See, same thing. See, you can't do that, you...

A--a trustee or a deacon in taking their office, or any officer of a church that represents a certain church body (See?) that represents a church...

That's the reason I walked out of the Baptist church (See?) for the very first time. I'd just been in there a little bit and they--they asked me to ordain some woman preachers. Well, I couldn't actually stay in it. I said, "I--I--I refuse to do it."

Questions And Answers - 61-0112

Responsibility of a Deacon to the Sanctuary

I Corinthians 14 : 40

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Deacons are God's policemen in the House of God

222. Now, is there any better way to keep order in the church than to keep reminding the people with a--a repeat from the deacons accordingly?

No, that, I just explained that. That's question number three. The deacons, your duty is to keep order in the church with kindness and friendliness. And then you are supposed to, if someone gets out of order in the church, or comes in here like a drunk, or somebody come in. Like they shot that minister out of the platform the other night up there. You heard about that, that drunk coming in with a double-barreled shotgun. And he screamed for his wife, and--and wanted a...?... and went up towards the pastor. And the pastor showed him his wife setting there, but he was going to shoot her right in the church, and the pastor started to dealing with him. And instead of--instead of the... The man with the shotgun turned around and shot the pastor out of the pulpit, and then shot his wife, and then shot himself.

Now, if there'd been a bunch of deacons there when that man entered that door with that shotgun, they'd have had their arms around him and the shotgun out of his hand. See? See, that's--that's orderly deacons. And now, these things have gone the way they're doing now, and you might just expect anything.

But, remember, the deacons are God's policemen in the house of God, no matter what anybody else thinks. Sometimes a policeman want not to have to go up and make an arrest on somebody, maybe one of his friends, but he's sworn to an office; he's got to do it anyhow. That's his duty to his city. See?

Church Order - 63-1226

Nobody should interrupt a service

That's the duty of a deacon to the church. And if someone jumps up and starts interrupting the pastor, or something other like that, and the pastor in his message, the deacons supposed to walk up to them people, two or three of them, say, "Could we speak to you, brother?" See? Bring him from the church, out into the office, in here or some other office, and speak to him about it, saying, "You're not to interrupt." You know, it's a--it's a great fine by the law to interrupt a service anyhow. See? But some people, such as a delinquent person or something, come among you, you know, and--and some religious fanatic, and--and start carrying on, then the deacons... And if--and if the deacons don't seem to be able to control it, then the trustee board or anyone else in the church can step up and give help to such a person, you know, that...

Church Order - 63-1226

They have the authority from the Church

Is there any better way to keep order in the church than to remind the people with a repeat from the deacons, now, occasionally?

Now, I think that the--the pastor, ever so often... Or play this tape; let that stand for a witness. Deacons are policemen, and their word is law and order. See? And they have the authority from the church and even from the laws of the nation to make that house of God be the right place. And anyone to contrary a deacon like that, is subject to--to two to ten years in federal prison. If you tell them to go and they don't do it, or something like that, somebody with disorderly conduct, he just don't know what he's doing to... He's subjecting himself, allowing himself to all kinds of fines, anything.

And then if it comes to the spot that somebody... Now, like... And if somebody jumps up and gets disorderly... Just maybe speak in tongues or something, I wouldn't go in on that. See, let them go, 'cause that they're a stranger. If they're our own people, then just let... The next night, you deacons just get this tape, and say, "Now, we're going to play the order of the church before we start the service, I want everybody to understand it." And you pastors and you all can work together like that.

Church Order - 63-1226

Deacons should find out why people have left

228. Brother Branham, in respect to the order of the church, we have tried to go accordingly to the way we understood it given in the dedication of the new church. And by doing so, we have often... people has often gotten mad at us.

They do at me too. They'll do it any man. See? A person that does that, there's something wrong with that person. They're not right with God, for the Spirit of Christ is subject to Christ's teaching, Christ's house, Christ's order. See? And any man that, or any woman, or any persons, children, that would get angry with a godly deacon, that would tell them to be... And, or any parent would get angry with a deacon... Really, we want everybody in this church that we can get; but if that would only cause trouble somewhere else, there's a thorn or, "a rabbit in the woodpile," as we used to say it. That person isn't right.

If they leave, there's only one thing to do: let them go, and pray for them. See? Then maybe some of the deacons go to their church--or go to their house sometime, and find out why they left, and ask them what was wrong. Then, and if they... See if you can reconcile them. If you can't, then take two or three witnesses with him, that they might be understood. Then if they can't be understood, then it's told before the church if they are a member here of the church. Then they are... And then if they're not members of the church, 'course they're not members of this congregation, they should be made to be ruly. See, they--they've got to listen to our orders here, because this is the orders of the church. This is things we don't want to do, things that I don't like to do, but it's things that must be doing. And I'm exposing myself and telling here by this tape; it's me; they can hear me talking and know that it's me, not you men. You've asked me these questions, and I'm giving it to you the best that I know how from the Word of God.

"Now, if those people get angry and go out from you, what does the Scripture say about it, Brother Branham?"

"They went out from us because they wasn't of us." That settles it. "Left the church," that's what they did. All right.

Church Order - 63-1226

The Tabernacle is a visitation place of the Holy Spirit

Others will not listen to anything we say, especially the children.

The children are supposed to know discipline; they should get it at home. But even if it's mine, my kids get in here at anytime, they get disorderly, I don't want you to draw one string; Sarah, Rebekah, Joseph, Billy, or whoever it might be. You tell me; I'll see to it. If they can't behave, then they'll stay away from church till they do learn to behave. This is not an arena; this is a house of God. This is not a place to play, and skate, and write notes, and laugh, and cut up; this is the house of God, and is to be carried out godly.

You come here to worship, not even to visit. This is not a--this is not a picnic ground; this is not a visitation place; this is the visitation place of the Holy Spirit, listen to what He has to say, not to one another. We don't come here to--to fellowship with one another; we come here to fellowship with Christ. This is the house of worship. And children must be disciplined, and if they are of their parents. Let it be known, that if these deacons... If these parents of the children will not listen to what these deacons said, then this parent should be corrected themselves.

Church Order - 63-1226

Deacons are compelled to carry out orders

Now, have we misunderstood?

No, sir. You haven't misunderstood; that's correct. I'm saying it again, the orders. In the army they don't ask you, "Will you go do a certain thing?" If you're in the army, you're compelled to do it. See? And that's the way it is in the... I'm compelled to preach the Gospel. I'm compelled to stand for this regardless of what my other men and brethren and so forth say about it; I'm compelled to do this. I have to hurt feelings and cut men to pieces, but if I...

You don't want to get like Oswald. See? If you can't disagree with a man and things, then shake his hand and still have the same feelings towards him, then there's something wrong with you. If I can't disagree with a man, bitterly, from one side to the other, and still think as much of him as--as Christ would, then there's something wrong with my spirit; I haven't the Spirit of Christ. See?

If he says, "Well, Brother Branham, I--I believe that your teaching is this, that."

"All right, Brother, let's come together to reason, you and I. We'll take it ourselves. We'll go over here in the room to ourself; we'll reason it out." And he just cuts me to pieces, and I have to say things back to him. If in my heart I can't feel the same about him, that he's still my Brother and I'm trying to help him, then I'll never help him; there's no way for me to help him. If I don't love him, what's the use in going over there? Tell him, "The first place first, brother, I don't love you, and let me get that out of my heart right here before we go in there, because I can't help you until I love you."

And that's right, and that's the way. See, carry it on; you've done it exactly right; that's the way it should be. You never misunderstood it.

Church Order - 63-1226

Deacons are Gospel Bodyguards

Are we going about it the wrong way?

No, it is the right way to carry that. Let order be kept. Because it's constantly... Now, little children and mothers, little babies and things, they--they'll cry, and if they get crying too much and interrupting your pastor up there, remember, you are his bodyguards; you're his Gospel bodyguards. See? And if it's interrupting the message of the Lord, then you are deacons, what are you to do? Just like a man speaking in tongues, he's duty bound. And a man preaching, he's duty bound to the Word, he's duty bound to these things. Each one of you is duty bound to an office, and that's--and that's just what we're--we're here to do.

Church Order - 63-1226

Deacons should not wait on the pastor to carry out orders

231. How far, Brother Branham, can or should a deacon go to keep order in the church? Should we keep the order or wait until Brother Neville tells us what we should do?

That isn't Brother Neville's job; that's your job. See? You don't tell Brother Neville what to preach on, how to preach it. See, that's your job, you deacons; you're supposed to do that. You take care of that. That's nothing to Brother Neville that's your job. See?

Now, if a policeman's out here on the street and he sees a man stealing property out of a back of a car, should he call the mayor and say, "Now, Mayor, your Honor, sir, I am working for you here on this police force. Now, I find a man up the street here, he's--he was stealing some tires off of a car last night. Now, I just wonder, what's your opinion of that?" See? See, that wouldn't be sensible. Would it? No, sir, If he's doing something wrong, arrest him.

And if a man's doing something wrong here in the church, or anybody, stop them, talk to them. Don't be arrogant; but if they won't listen, speak in a way that they know what you're saying. See? See, like you tell a child, say, "Walk back there," and he's misbehaving. Deacons, stay at your place. Put... There's four of you; stay two in front and two in the back, on these corners or somewhere like that. And watch real close for renegades and everything else come in like this. You see? And you be on the guard, and you get to your post of duty and stay there; that's your seat; or stand right beside a wall and watch everything come in.

Church Order - 63-1226

Courtesy yet with authority

A deacon takes care of the house of God. Someone come in, speak to them; be there to greet them, shake their hand. That's... You're the policeman, "Could we show you the cloak room?" or "Would you be seated?" "Could we hand you a song book or something?" or "Now, we would like for you to enjoy yourself here, and--and pray, and--and we're happy you're here with us tonight." Lead them right down to a place, and say, "Would you like to be closer or would you like to be back here?" or wherever more. That's hospitality.

A policeman (or the deacon) is a military police to the army, courtesy, but yet with authority. See? You know what a military police is, is actually, if he carries out his rights, I think he's just like a chaplain. You see? It's courtesy and everything, but yet he has an

authority. See, you must mind him. See, he puts... These rookies get out there and get drunk, why, he puts them in their place. And so is the deacon to put them in their place. Now, remember, the deacon is a policeman, and a deacon's office is actually more strict than most any office in the church. I don't know of an office any more stricter than the deacon's office. That's right. Because he's got a--he's got a real job, and he's God's man. He's God's man just as much as the pastor's God's man. Certainly, he is. He's God's servant.

Church Order - 63-1226

Trustees take care of repairs, property and finances

Now the trustees, only thing, they're under duty by God to watch that finances and take care of that, the things that goes on like that. I told you about them tapes, and--and about other things here that goes on, about the building and repairs, and taking up the finances and things, that's--that's what they're trustee of: the property, finances, and things. The deacons has nothing to do in that. And neither does the--the trustee have anything to do with the deacons' office.

Now, if the deacons wants to ask the trustee's help on anything, or the--or the trustees the deacon's, and you're all working together... But that's your duties, is singling out. See? All right.

Church Order - 63-1226

You are working for Jesus Christ

Now, no, don't ask Brother Neville. If Brother Neville asks you to do something, then that's--that's your pastor, with courtesy and love and everything... If he'd say, "Brother Collins, Brother Hickerson, Brother Tony, or somebody, would you see what's wrong back there in the corner." At the post of duty like that, you know, as a real man of God.

Remember, you are not working for Branham Tabernacle, neither are you working for Brother Neville or me; you're working for Jesus Christ. See? You... That's who you do... And He--He's respecting your loyalty just the same as He is to that pastor or to anybody else; He's expecting your loyalty. And we want to show our loyalty.

Church Order - 63-1226

Deacon takes care of the House of God

Now, sometimes it gets hard. It's hard for me in the field. A minister setting there I love with all my heart, just have to really tell him (See?), but in a way of love, I've got a hand out to help him. So see? And they come to me and say, "Brother Branham, you're just a wonderful person, why can't you just compromise a little on that baptism, and on this, that, and the other, that security, and the serpent's seed?"

I say, "Brother, I love you, but now, let's us take--just take the Scripture and see who's right or wrong. See, I've got to be able to..."

"Oh, no. Now, Brother Branham, I tell you, you're all wrong." See, goes flying up.

"Oh," I say, "well, perhaps I am. Then if I am, surely you'd tell me, you're... You know where I'm wrong at, then you show me where I'm wrong. And I'm willing to take. See?"

Same thing, "Hey, you ain't got no business telling that child to set down." Now, the

deacon is the--is the custodian at the house of God. See? Now, if you... He takes care of the house of God and keeps it in order. Now, that's what the Scripture says, and if you got anything else that a deacon should do, you come tell me. See, there's the same thing, but that--that's your duty to do that, yeah, just back up.

And you should ask nobody; that's--that's just your duty. Brother Neville don't ask nobody; the church don't have to ask... I mean, the--the--the trustees don't have to go ask Brother Neville if--if he wants the roof put on the Tabernacle. See? No, no, that's not nothing to Brother Neville; it's not nothing to me; that's to you. The deacons don't have to...

Church Order - 63-1226

We are just working as His Ambassadors

The same way to the pastor. "What are you going to preach on? I don't want you to do this." They ain't got no business saying that; he's under God (See?), their pastor. And then if--if--if Brother Neville, he preaches a message that the Lord has give us, and we're all together in this. And if I tell Brother Neville something wrong, God holds me responsible for it. That's right. See? So God is the Boss of all of it. See? And we're just working as His ambassadors (You see?), down here in these offices.

Church Order - 63-1226

Show them a place and them to be in prayer

Look the way we used to do it years ago. Sister Gertie was the pianist. When I pastored here, I was--I had to be pastor, deacon, trustee, and everything else at once (See?), but I--I had to do it. Now you don't have to do it that way (See?), because you got men to carry this out. But when the... I had ushers, Brother Seward and all of them at the door. They had books piled around there at the door, setting in a chair, or something or another. And when someone come in, you showed them a place to hang your coat or helped them to their seat, give them a song book, and asked them to be in prayer. And then everybody set in their seat and silently prayed until starting time. See? And then at starting time, Sister Gertie, the pianist, got up there and started the music before--when the people are--are coming together.

I would suggest to have your organist to get up there with some real nice music. And if she can't be here, put it on tape and then play it, or something another, and have music, real sweet sacred music going on. So... And ask people... And if people goes to talking and carrying on like that, let one of the deacons get up at the microphone up there at the desk and say, "sh, sh, sh," like that. Say, "At the Tabernacle here we--we want you to come to worship. Let's not make noise now; listen to the music. Get your seat, set down, be reverent (See?), pray or read the Bible. This in the sanctuary here is where the Lord dwells. And we want everybody to be real reverent and worship, not to be running around, talking before the services. Congregate yourself, and you've come here to talk to the Lord. See? Either be in silent prayer (See?), or read your Bible."

Church Order - 63-1226

Jesus acted as a Deacon

He was both pastor, prophet, trustee, and deacon. Sure was. So then you see what He did, let that be your example in the house here at this Branham Tabernacle, that we want to be a house that He will be honored in with everything, every office, every place, that there be no taking back. There'd be gentleness, and sweetness, and kindness, but just straight on the line; every man's at his post of duty. See? That's the way, that's the way He wants it. He never slagged. When it come time to say, call what was what, He called it. When it come time to show gentleness, then He showed gentleness. He was sweet, kind, understanding, but stern; and everything was right to the dot with Him, and He did that for your example. Now, the Holy Spirit just give me that. So I never thought about that, Him being a deacon before, but He was. See? He--He acted as deacon.

Church Order - 63-1226

Correction of a Deacon

1 CORINTHIANS 5: 11 - 13

11 *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

12 *For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?*

13 *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

God has a way of doing these things if we'll just follow the Rules

What'd Paul say about this man down there was living with his stepmother? They couldn't get him reconciled, said, "Turn him over to the Devil." Watch what happens then in the next letter Paul wrote; this man had got straightened out. Sure, God has a way of doing these things, if we'll just follow His rules.

If something goes wrong in the church, if it's amongst the congregation, each one of you brothers that's on the deacon board... One of you deacons don't behave, the other deacons come and have a meeting, try to reconcile the brother; tell him what he's doing, or one of you members, whatever you are. Then it's to be brought before him. If he won't do it, then come tell the pastor. Then he's loosed from the church, and then let him be as a heathen and a Publican. Then watch the Lord go to work on him (See?); that's when he comes back to himself; that's when he goes to crawling in. But we try to do it ourself, you know, try to do the--everything the way we should do it. Now, we never make a success.

Hebrews Chp 7 Pt 1 - 57-0915E

Take one of the Deacons with you

But if there's any complaint against any member, if a member has a complaint against one another, or something wrong, you're supposed to go to that brother, yourself, and talk to him, you and he alone. Then if they won't receive it, then the next thing takes place; you take one of the deacons or somebody, and go with you to that brother. Then if he won't receive you, then you come, tell it to the church. Then if the church... Then if he won't receive the church, then the Bible said, "Let them be as a heathen and a Publican." That's right.

And any persons that knows a guilty person, and you don't go to them and talk, then you're the part of the church of God that's going to answer for that sin. That's right.

Hebrews Chp 7 Pt 1 - 57-0915E

Grievance against Deacons

And if any persons then has a--a complaint against a deacon, or against the deacon, or somebody in the church, it takes three people. Three people would come and say--witness at the mouth of two or three witnesses. Come tell the pastor that there's a grievance against a deacon. Then if there's a grievance against a deacon, the deacon isn't a just man, a perfect

man... He must hold the office of a deacon blameless, and then found blameless. And if that congregation finds out that that deacon's not holding that office, he gets three with him and takes it to the pastor. That deacon's asked to stay home over the night, and then the pastor from--comes and brings the congregation together, gives the grievance. And if the congregation votes for the deacon to continue on, the deacon continues on. If he con--votes for the deacon to be dismissed, they elect a new deacon that very night. See?

Hebrews Chp 7 Pt 1 - 57-0915E

Cause for disfellowshipped: immoral living, defiling our girls

For instance, if--if they caught Brother Neville, or Brother Junior, or Brother, some brother here, one of the deacons or trustees, or something another, doing something wrong, I believe the thing to do is for the church to get together and pray for this brother. If he still don't straighten up, then let a couple go with him, go to the brother to be reconciled. And if then if he don't receive it, then tell it before the church. Then if they don't receive it then, that's the time for the whole church then (See?); that's for pastor, elders, and everything else to do it. I don't believe that any deacon board has a right to throw anybody out of church, or any trustee board, or any pastor has a right to do it.

I think if anybody was to be disfellowshipped, would be because of immoral living, or something like that, that he wasn't a fit person, like a man coming in here defiling our girls or--or insulting our women, and things like that, and still professing to be one of us here... See? Now, if he's out somewhere else coming in, why, we have to do something about it, but, when it comes to a person like that, a immoral person trying to make love to our wives, or--or insult our daughters, or, you know, something another like that, or do something immorally around her, or taking our little boys out and making perverts out of them, or something, those things should be taken up, and then that fellow should be excommunicated from the fellowship and not permitted to take communion with it, because we're not supposed to do that. We're not. "If any eats unworthily, is guilty of the Blood and body of the Lord," on that person.

Questions And Answers - 61-0112

These quotations were taken from the **Messages preached by Brother William Branham, the End Time Messenger**. It is profitable to study the quotations from the text supplied, taken from the Message in order to acquire the full context of the quotations.

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Church Order Of The Branham Tabernacle

The Office of the Pastor

The office of the pastor is to conduct and act upon any program of which he believes to be according to the plan of God, according to the Word of God, for the Branham Tabernacle. He shall assume supreme authority and meet the initial responsibility of solely, as to the keeping and promoting for the spiritual welfare of the church. He shall be head of the associate pastor, the deacon board, the trustee board, and the church body itself. Acting in wisdom to lead God's saints, manifesting love toward all the saints and their burdens. Conducting himself in perfect servitude, of which God has called and placed him to act upon.

The Office of the Deacons

The office of deacons, as elected according to the Word of God and the manner of the Branham Tabernacle, is to act as an office of spiritual assistance to the pastors. They are to assist the pastors on all of his spiritual activities. They are given free speech in presenting to the pastors any program or benefits that would bless the general and spiritual welfare of the church. They must be apt to teach, and ready to assist the pastor or associate pastor on every duty if called to do so.

They shall assist in serving communion. They shall be acting ushers in all services. They shall police the church, in keeping civil order and conduct. They shall assist in taking local offerings. They shall oversee the spiritual conduct of the church in working with the pastor and one another on spiritual problem and matters of the saints. They shall be ready at anytime to assist the need of every saint who is burdened and in need of spiritual consultation, or general welfare. They have not the right to act upon any program or promotion without agreement with one another, the pastors or the trustees if the program they are considering involves church funds. They will be responsible before God for their conduct and manner of service, according to the Word of God. They shall not have meeting among themselves without the pastor or associate pastor present.

The Office of the Trustees

The body of men, shall govern the welfare of church as a business group. They are elected to protect the church in it's financial matters, it's business investments, the supervision of it's properties, and it's expenditures. They shall strongly consider every move of progress step by step, which involves church funds. For they shall be responsible to keep the church from indebtedness, and the saints from burdens that are too great to bare financially. In the undertaking of any project, regardless what it is, they are to bring the matter to the pastor for consultation by the pastor. Consultation by the pastor only for every financial project the church wishes to invest or engage itself therein is absolutely required.

The Office of the Treasurer

The responsibility of the treasurer is to provide an exact account of the financial status of the present funds in the treasury. This report is to be made available to the pastor or the

board of trustees, upon their request of such a report. No other office in the church may have access to this information. He may obtain such information from the trustees report given to him by the treasurer. The treasurer shall sit in on every trustee meeting to take notes and minutes of actions taken by the board of trustees. He has not the authority to convey or acknowledge the financial status information to any acting office in the church but the pastor or board of trustees. He shall not be a consultant in spiritual matters, nor is it of need that he should attend meetings of the deacons. Unless asked to by the pastor.

The Office of the Music Program

The music program and all order pertaining to the development of such a program is under the supervision of the pastor only, and the associate pastor. During regular services, special meetings, or revivals, at all times, the pastors shall advise and conduct this program. This trustee board shall advise on th purchasing of any musical instruments and the pastor shall be consulted. Any suggestion for musical programs by the saints, deacons, or such parties interested should be presented to the pastor, who will welcome them, and advise on such suggestions. It is preferred the pastor shall control this program, as he is the leader of the worship service, and confidence is placed in his ability to lead the church in worship that is most pleasing to God. Music programs, testimony services, addressing by various parties, reports to the church by various offices, or any program that intervenes the worship time should be under the pastors supervision.