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## To Those Who Look After Us *1 Timothy 3*

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Why we call people what we call them. How do you choose? How do we all keep in step?

They are chosen because God has called and prepared them for leadership in the church.

And what are the biblical qualifications of an elder? 1 Timothy 3:1-7 lists what is required of an elder.

What, then, are the duties required of an elder? Acts 20 gives us a look at the elders in Ephesus. In verse 28 Paul says, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

An elder who rules the church must evaluate not only his own life, but also the spiritual needs of his flock.

In the earliest days of the church, the apostles led the church at Jerusalem.

Eventually it was necessary for them to delegate some of their responsibilities to other mature Christian men. That enabled the apostles to concentrate on prayer and teaching, while the deacons concentrated on meeting the people's physical and material needs.

For those of you who have been thinking, "deacons, get to work!"—now it's your turn!

Whereas the basic task of church leadership is to teach sound doctrine and explain how it applies to daily life, the basic task of the members is to be Spirit-filled as they learn doctrine and then apply what they learn to their daily lives.

The congregation is the object of the leaders' ministry. Perhaps someday as a result of that ministry, members of this church will become deacons.

We all start at the same point—somewhere in the congregation. Those who are faithful with small tasks can be entrusted with larger responsibilities.

The congregation is the part of the church that is to do "the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12 - to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up).

I thank God for the people he has raised up to serve as deacons in this church. Let me assure you that God has raised up good people.

Will you pray that God would use them to serve him faithfully as Christ builds this church for his glory?

And will you also pray that God help you and every member of this Church to keep in step.