

## QUESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE ELDERS AND DEACONS

The following article is adapted from the bulletin of the Corder Road church in Warner Robins, Georgia:

Elders and deacons are to be exemplary men. Not everyone can or should be an elder or deacon. Only men who are qualified, who believe right, who act right and who have the spirit of servanthood should be appointed as deacons. Only men who are otherwise qualified and show leadership ability should be appointed as elders. Wives and children can disqualify otherwise qualified men. Lack of involvement, unfaithfulness, lukewarmness and indifference will eliminate men from serving in these areas. Below is a suggested list of questions one might wish to ask prospective elders and deacons. The list is not exhaustive, but the answers to them might be helpful in determining one's personal support for those being considered:

- 1) Do you believe the Bible is totally inspired of God and inerrant?
- 2) Do you believe the Bible is the pattern for the church of Christ in the 20th Century?
- 3) Can one be saved without obeying the plan of salvation? Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, be Baptized?
- 4) Is the use of instrumental music in worship sinful, that is, does the Bible authorize its use or not?
- 5) Do you believe that the only cause for divorce and remarriage is fornication?
- 6) Do you want to "serve" this congregation as a deacon?
- 7) As a deacon, will you serve in the capacity in which the elders ask you to serve?
- 8) Do you consider yourself a servant?
- 9) Are there any problems in your marriage which the elders need to know about?
- 10) Do you believe that attendance at every service of this congregation is required of you unless sickness and events beyond your control hinder you?
- 11) Does your wife want you to serve and will she be willing to give you up at times so you can?
- 12) Is there anything in your life that could cause you not to be accepted as an elder or deacon by this congregation? a. Do you curse? b. Do you smoke? c. Do you drink alcohol as a beverage? d. Other?
- 13) Are you or your family now engaged in any questionable activity which could hurt your influence for good?
- 14) If there comes a time when you can no longer serve as a deacon or elder effectively, will you resign?
- 15) If you, as a deacon or elder, are asked to resign by the elders for a just reason, will you do so peacefully and with primary concern for the welfare of this congregation?
- 16) As a deacon will you serve under the oversight of the elders and cooperate with the elders and other deacons to help the church to grow?
- 17) As an elder will you take the responsibility to lead, be decisive and shepherd the flock?
- 18) As an elder or deacon, will you always stand for the Truth (Sound Doctrine) and uphold it whatever the cost?
- 19) As an elder, will you lead in practicing church discipline as taught in the New Testament?
- 20) As a prospective elder or deacon, just exactly why do you wish to accept this responsibility? What is your motivation?

— Adapted from an article by Lindell R. Doty, Elder & Preacher