

ORDAINING ELDERS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

I. ORDER AND MINISTRY OF LOCAL CHURCH.

- A. Ordained elders in every city.
 - 1. (Acts 14:23 KJV) And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.
 - 2. (Titus 1:5 KJV) For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:
- B. Five-fold ministry.

II. WHAT IS ORDINATION?

- A. To appoint to office; to set apart for an office or duty; appoint. Setting apart for Christian ministry.
- B. (1 Tim 2:7 KJV) Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.
- C. Formal appointment or recognition of those who had already given proof of their spiritual qualification.
 - 1. Called of God.
 - 2. Chosen. (John 15:16 KJV) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
 - 3. Seven chosen by brethren; appointed by 12.
 - 4. Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
- D. Gift of Timothy recognized in two ways.
 - 1. (1 Tim 4:14 KJV) Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
 - 2. (2 Tim 1:6 KJV) Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

III. Presbytery.

- A. One of ministries of Ephesians 4.
- B. Presbytery - two or more presbyters.
- C. Purpose of presbytery.
 - 1. Confirms ministries.
 - 2. Confirm's God's will.
 - 3. Impartation of gifts.
- D. Advisable that persons holding high office in the church should be publicly recognized.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH.

- A. Entire church involved in prayer, fasting, seeking the Lord.

B. Atmosphere of worship and faith; keeping responsive attitude.

V. RESPONSIBILITY OF CANDIDATE.

A. Saved, baptized, spirit-filled.

B. Stable in Christian walk.

C. Committed member of local church.

D. Qualifications of bishops. (1 Tim 3:1 KJV) This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1. (1 Tim 3:2 KJV) A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
2. (1 Tim 3:3 KJV) Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
3. (1 Tim 3:4 KJV) One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (1 Tim 3:5 KJV) (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
4. (1 Tim 3:6 KJV) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
5. (1 Tim 3:7 KJV) Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

VI. PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES.

VII. CHARGE.

A. (1 Tim 6:10 KJV) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim 6:11 KJV) But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

B. (1 Tim 6:12 KJV) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

C. (1 Tim 6:13 KJV) I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; (1 Tim 6:14 KJV) That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: (1 Tim 6:15 KJV) Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; (1 Tim 6:16 KJV) Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

D. (1 Tim 6:17 KJV) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; (1 Tim 6:18 KJV) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; (1 Tim 6:19 KJV) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

VIII. LAYING ON OF HANDS.

IX. MINISTRY TO WIVES.