

# The Rule Of The Church Authority

(Part 4)

God over all the ages he called leaders to lead His church and his people. In the regard to the work of God in the church there are two types of leaders needed to do the work of God. *First*, are those who are responsible for teaching and equipping the saints for the service of God. *Second*, are those who are responsible to do the administrative work of God's service. Some people should do the administrative work so the leaders who are responsible of teaching and equipping the saints will be free and have more time preaching and teaching the word of God and for prayer.

*<sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:1-7)*

From the above event we learned that there was administrative problem in the form that one group had been neglected from the daily distribution of food. At that time the apostles they were the one standing on tables to distribute the food for the people. That responsibility was in addition to their main task to teach and preach the word and prayer. The Load on them was more because the church was expanding and the administrative work was taken much time from them and affecting their main ministry achievement. From this point *the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.* The apostles they were really hard pressed to achieve their task with the increasing responsibilities to secure food

distribution to everyone. Therefore the following suggestion had been put forward: ***"Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."*** Here in the suggestion of the apostles we found there is emphases on the quality of the workers before given the responsibility to them; they need to be filled with wisdom and with The Holy Spirit. That determined their real commitment to God and to live according to His word. The proposal of the apostle is to create an administrative post done by committed people with certain godly criteria to ensure that the task will be achieved successfully and honestly by godly men.

God's word teaches us how to chose godly workers (deacons) who help in the church administration: ***"<sup>8</sup> Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. <sup>11</sup> In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. <sup>12</sup> A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup> Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus."***

***This proposal pleased the whole group*** because it was God's will to keep God's service and His grace to reach His people using godly men who have faith and full of The Holy Spirit and wisdom. With that decision seven godly men added to the church leadership to help in caring for the people needs. ***They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*** In doing that the following was achieved for the early church: ***"So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."*** (Acts 6:7) Appointment of suitable leaders to perform administrative work will expand the church through the following:

***1- The word of God spread:*** More rapid evangelism would be achieved because more time for us to reach new group and areas with the gospel.

**2- The number of disciples will increase rapidly:** More time will be available for those who are responsible for teaching to go and make disciples.

**3- large number of priests became obedient to the faith:** As more time were available for the apostles they were spending more time in prayers at the feet of Jesus and through prayers God worked to touch and change many people's lives. When more time would be available for us for prayer then even the impossible people God can change and bring to faith.

The word of God also teaches us about certain criteria must be available to those whom God call to lead His church and teach His people the word of God. They are elders to others in the congregation and could serve as workers, elders, pastors or overseers: ***“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.”*** (1 Timothy 3:1-7) We can read more from the book of Titus 1:6-9 ***“<sup>6</sup> An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>8</sup> Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. <sup>9</sup> He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”***

***My Dear and Beloved:*** ***“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”*** (2 Timothy 2:2) ***“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*** (2 Timothy 2:15)

The Church of God Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates and all the churches under its care adopt the following criteria for the approved worker who can function in a suitable church office and do certain ministry according to the gift of the Holy Spirit that he/she received from the Lord:

**1- True conversion, Repentance, Faith in Jesus, Life Testimony, Water Baptism.**

**2- Sound in Doctrine.**

**3- Spiritual Discipline, Prayer, Bible Reading and Study, Praise and Worship, fasting.**

**4- Commitment to the local church, attend regularly, financial commitment (tithe regularly), agree and go along the church vision and the leadership of the church.**

**5- Good Steward for time, talents, resources and money.**

**6- Family Responsibility. Marital and parental responsibility.**

**7- Moral purity (No work of the flesh) No bad habits.**

**8- Good character, Personal Integrity, fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

**9- Modest appearance for dress, speech, conduct and life style that pleases God.**

**10- Being a good citizen.**

***My Prayer:*** ***Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your calling upon my life and I thank you for considered me faithful and appointed me in your service. Lord equips me with more spiritual gifts to enable me to go on spreading your word and serving your people, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.***