



NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Lesson 10:

Church Government and Relating to the Pastor: GOD's Authority in the Local Church

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RANKS, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

I Corinthians 14:40

"But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner."

The purpose of today's class is to give definition to the ecclesiastical ranks, their roles and corresponding responsibilities of servant leaders in GOD's House.

Rank Defined

Legitimate skilled positions in the hierarchy of an organization or society, which shows forth the unity of a series of persons and systems, utilized to maximize efficiency and fulfill mission.

Roles Defined

A prescribed or expected behavior associated with a particular position or status in a group or organization.

Responsibilities Defined

A duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task (assigned by someone, or created by one's own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent penalty for failure.

Senior Ecclesiastical Leadership

Senior or Archbishop

- The highest ranking official of the local Church. The Archbishop is the senior shepherd under Christ, who oversees the headquarters church (or Cathedral) and all the clergy and Churches under him
- The Archbishop is the chief proclaimer of the Gospel, the interpreter of doctrine, and the chief ordaining agent of all clergy
- The Archbishop sets vision for the Church in Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Evangelism, and Outreach Missions

Bishop, Ordinary & Suffragan

- Bishop ordinary is a senior Elder, consecrated to the office of Bishop, who oversees an ecclesiastical region of Churches and Ministries
- Bishop suffragan is an administrative assistant to a Bishop ordinary, who handles episcopal affairs as designated by the Bishop ordinary

Elder

What is an Elder?

- An Elder is a seasoned or mature believer, who has demonstrated a skill in handling the Word of GOD and an understanding of the faith and doctrine of Christ, who is called to lead the flock by serving in the capacity of care, instruction, discipline, and support

- Elders give oversight guidance and assistance to the membership, leading them to the love of GOD in Jesus Christ, thorough understanding of the Scriptures, complete health and wholeness of being, and encourages them to embrace ministry involvement as well as a love for people
- Elders assist in protecting the flock by giving sound Scriptural answers to issues contrary to the doctrine of Christ. They confront challenges by the world or false teachers to the faith

Deacons

- A Deacon is a Holy Spirit filled disciple in the local Church, whom possesses a reputable faith and character that willingly serves as an assistant to the leader, by removing unnecessary work, tasks, and handling Kingdom affairs; taking on the stewardship responsibility of assignments so as to keep the Church flowing and the leadership exclusively consecrated
- Deacons serve the LORD in Prayer, Fasting, Worship, study of the Scripture, and stay in communion with the Holy Spirit. Their walk with GOD is witnessed in their ordered marital affairs, personal life (if single), home life, and their good reputation among the brethren in the local Church
- Deacons serve the needs of the leader assigned to them, joyfully, courageously, and humbly. They avail themselves to assist in Sacramental, property, and membership service with an aim to Glorify GOD and bring excellence to all they do. When affairs are in their care, their leader can rest, assured things are being handled as if they were present
- Deacons serve the needs of the congregation through visitation, prayer, advisement, and instruction in the faith. Deacons are examples to the flock of what GOD requires and are points of contact from the leadership to encourage and exhort the laity to godliness and Holiness unto the LORD

Women in Ministry Roles

In The Holy Christian Church, we believe in equality of sexes but difference in roles between male and female. Consistent with Scripture, we believe the women's role in Ministry should not be restricted in witness, service, or mission but when it comes to headship of the Church and Pastoral care of the flock, this role was specifically given to men in the same manner as the marriage household. Further, according to the Scriptures, women should not be in teaching or authority usurping positions over men. Women are appointed for Ministry under the headship of GOD's anointed men in place, but only within that parameter. This is not restrictive rather respective to the order of Christ and Scripture.

Minister

- General title for all female Ministers, where one is a servant in all aspects of ministry teaching, preaching, evangelizing, missions work, prophetic, and administrative capacity

Prophetess

- Female Prophet, who speaks forth the WORD of the LORD primarily from Scripture, with uncommon Grace to give insight into the mind of GOD for a person's life

Evangelist

- One called to carry the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost, ranging from altar work in the local church to crusades outside of the local church

Missionary

- The order of pioneering or assisting with missions which bring felt need relief to a person or group, for the purpose of setting up for the preaching of the Gospel

Deaconess

- Female Deacon, who assists the Elders or Pastor in administration of Pastoral Care, Sacraments, Church affairs as prescribed