

BUILDING BLOCKS

What is the Church?
Part 8

Getting to Know Our Church Family

A few weeks ago, we spent some time in these verses:

[God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... (Eph 4:11-12)

As we conclude this series on the church, let's focus in on how some of these roles of service are described.

Shepherds (Acts 20:17, 28-31)

- ❖ _____ (20:17) – men of experience
- ❖ _____ (20:28) – watching out for us
- ❖ _____ to the flock (1 Pet 5:1-3)



Deacons (Acts 6:1-4)

- ❖ " _____ " who sacrifice time and effort to help meet the physical needs of our church family

Preachers (2 Tim 4:1-2)

- ❖ "Messengers" who use "the _____" to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."



And what is God's goal? That **saints** would be equipped for the **work** of ministry.

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the _____, encourage the fainthearted, help the _____, be patient with them all. (1 Thes 5:14)

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's revisit Acts 20:28-31.
 - Who does the church belong to?
 - If that's the case, why does the church need overseers?
 - What sort of dangers are shepherds on the watch for?
- In 1 Peter 5:2, we heard that elders are told to "shepherd the flock of God that is among you." What can we learn from that instruction?
- Let's open our Bibles and read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. How would you describe what sort of people overseers and deacons are to be?
- Why is it so important that preachers "preach the word" (2 Tim 4:2)?
- Let's focus on the instructions to all of us in 1 Thessalonians 5:14. What does it mean to:
 - Admonish the idle?
 - Encourage the fainthearted?
 - Help the weak?
 - Be patient with all?