

# Sermon Outline

## **ELDERS AND DEACONS : OUR SERVANT LEADERS** *Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:8*

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Message : Because Christ is the Head of the church, church officers are to lead His body with Christ- modelled servant leadership.

### **I. Introduction**

1. Firstly, elders and deacons are both overseers of the local church. In the purpose of God, they meet 2 dimensions of church oversight.
2. The elder or overseer oversees the spiritual welfare of the church. They are set to the task of ruling, caring, shepherding and providing biblical direction and instruction.
3. The deacon oversees specific tasks of service, in particular, ministering to those in need such as the sick, the poor, the friendless and lonely.
4. The 2 functions although different are complementary. The deacons are the serving hands of the shepherds of the congregation. They are offices of a different function not of value.
5. 2ndly, both elders and deacons are spiritual leaders in their own right. 1 Timothy 3's qualifications of these 2 offices, are quite similar in their characteristics.
6. But although they are leaders, the leadership they exercise can only be in a serving relationship.
7. 3rdly, although the church officers are chosen by the membership, yet their ultimate responsibility is not to the congregation but to Christ, the divine Head of the church. The church is a monarchy and a theocracy rather than a democracy.

### **II. Serving God**

**A. loves God and zealous for His glory, His cause and His covenant (1:5, 1:9)**

**B. devoted to the authority of the Word in the lives of God's people - 8:1-8**

**C. prayerfully dependent on God (1:4,6; 2:4; 4:4,9; 5:19; 6:9; 13:14,22,29)**

**D. faithful to God's call and his vision in face of spiritual warfare (2:12;4:10-16; 6:3,9,11)**

### **III. Serving His people**

- A. loves and identifies with the people- (1:4-6, 2:10, 4:10-12,5:1-5, 13:17)**
  
- B. diligently partnering, enabling/organizing and motivating them (2:11-20, 3:1-32, 4:13-15,18,20)**
  
- C. modelling faith in God and walk with Him (4:16,23; 5:10, 16)**
  
- D. sharing the hardships and the fruits (5:16-18, 8:9-10)**

### **VI. Lessons**

1. Nehemiah was an effective leader because he was, first and foremost, a servant of God and a servant of people.
2. He was man of prayer as well as man of vision and determined action.
3. Despite fierce opposition, Nehemiah took his calling seriously and fulfilled it gloriously. He was driven by a zeal for God's glory and the welfare of the church and a love for God and His body.
4. My fellow elders and deacons, may Nehemiah's God-given spirit of service be your delight and compass.