



The Holiness of God—Part 2
Holy Order
From Sermon 8.21.22

Read *Ephesians 4:11-16*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Under the heading of holiness, God is a god of order. In all things He created, there is/is to be order. This includes, then, authority, assigned roles, ordained structure, and required boundaries. It's when man ignores or throws out the divine mandate for order that sin reigns and chaos rules. This has never been truer than in our day. This culture hates authority and assigned roles in the home, in the church, and in society. The church must adhere to God's blueprint for blessing.

1. How is heaven ordered and organized? The Godhead is the ultimate power, leader, and authority. But, scripture also shows us ranking angels—Michael the archangel. Gabriel the messenger. Seraphim and Cherubim serve before God. The heavenly hosts are called the armies of God with order and rank.

1a. How did God prescribe the Old Testament tabernacle/temple to be ordered? Not only did He command exactly how it should look and be laid out, but only one of the 12 tribes could minister there—the Levites. Within that tribe, every clan had certain assigned duties and roles. There was only one High Priest who could do the atonement ceremonies.

1b. Based on these historic and enduring truths about God's character and plan, what is His requirement for the Church? The church must be in good order. Not everyone can join*. Not everyone can serve in any ministry. Not everyone qualifies as an elder, pastor, teacher. See also 1 Corinthians 14:33

[* = to be clear, any person can come to Christ and be saved. They should then join a local, bible believing church to be fed, accountable, serve, and grow. The point here is: there are minimum requirements to join a biblical church. Genuine conversion. Agreeing with God on the definition of sin. Repentance. Agreement in core doctrine and beliefs. In most cases, the modern church as required nothing of new member, outside of an interest in being part of a group, club, community.]

[Fascinating note: although the devil wants the world in chaos, rebellion, and disorder, the demonic hosts do actually have rank and hierarchy. See *Ephesians 6:11-12* & *Daniel 10:12-13*]

2. Are there still Apostles and prophets today? No. Those official roles, offices, and gifts close with the completion of the Bible. The gift now is the ability to preach and teach what's already been spoken.

3. What is a deacon? An ordained member called and equipped to be a servant leader. They assist the elders and serve the other members. What does the word deacon mean? Servant. Table waiter.
See also *Acts 6:2-4*

4. Read *1 Timothy 3:8-13*. List and discuss the qualifications for a Deacon. Dignity, honest, not addicted to anything, trustworthy, understanding spiritual truths, servant-minded, passing the test. Faithful to spouse and godly in parenting.

5. Why does New Heights have female deacons? Because we find them in Scripture. See *Romans 16:1*