

Appointing an Elder

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

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Good morning!

Today is a special day for Father's House.

Today, we are appointing our first elder of Father's House.

Today, we are appointing Louise Illum as our first elder of Father's House.

I believe this appointment is timely, as we have been sharing about how Christians need to rise & shine, by being salt and light in the world, by shining forth light God has given us, by walking in His ways and taking care of those in need, by humbling ourselves and repent on behalf of those who are oblivious to the need to repent before God. I believe this appointment is ordained by God, as He desires to show one of His faithful servants lifted up and shine her light in the world, so that the men might be drawn to the glory of God.

Isaiah 60:3-4

³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.

As I was thinking and meditating about Louise's appointment as an elder today, the LORD was highlighting how He lifted up Tim Tebow at this time, so the light of God was in him rose up, and drew so many people toward God. I pray that as we lift up Louise and appoint her as an elder of Father's House today, the light of God in her will also rise up and draw so many people toward God she loves.

I know Tim Tebow and Denver Broncos lost the game last night pretty badly, but because of God highlighted and lifted up Tim Tebow so much before the game, Focus on the Family was able to air a thirty-second commercial – actually it was an announcement of the Gospel, John 3:16, recited by many little children – so that all the people who were watching the game heard the Gospel of our Lord, that **God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** I believe millions of Americans heard the essence of the Gospel in that thirty seconds, because of who Tim Tebow is and how God has lifted up because of who Tim Tebow is. I wouldn't be surprised if many people, thousands, if not hundreds of thousands who heard of the Focus on the Family announcement last night had reflected upon their relationship with God, and it is likely that at least million people have heard the Gospel for the first time. It is very possible that, because the LORD had His light in Tim Tebow shine forth, thousands were saved because of the presentation of the Gospel. It is according to the Word of God.

Mathew 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

I could rave on Tim Tebow the entire sermon, because of his faith demonstrated through his character: how he loves God, how he is not ashamed of the Lordship of Jesus in his life, how he continually reminds himself to stay humble, how he wants to be a role model to the children, how he is devoted to charity work towards children, and how he kept himself a virgin for that one wife he will one day meet and fully devoted to. How many of you think it is because of these characters that God raised him up to shine forth in these days?

Likewise, I could rave on Louise this entire sermon, because of her faith demonstrated through her character; how she loves God, how she is not ashamed of the Lordship of Jesus in her life, how she continually reminds herself to stay humble, how she wants to be a role model to all the members of this congregation and the people she knows, how she is devoted to love others – demonstrated by her love expressed – I believe she is the one person many members call her “mom” because of her care for them, how she serves the church by volunteering to keep the office open during the week and help clean the facility all the time, how she prays for all of us in the earliest hours in the morning. Many of you may not know, but Louise was ordained as a pastor of her former church, but she humbled herself and laid it down to serve you and this church as a member, then as a deacon, and now after today as an elder of Father's House. How many of you think it is because of these characters that God raised her up to shine forth in these days?

Now, as an elder of Father's House, I have two charges for her. The first is to keep up the good work and the second is to continue to be a mother figure of this congregation by being a mother. Not just being a good teacher or being a good example, but becoming a mother of those in need of comfort, acknowledgment, greeting, encouragement, and prayer.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

It is my sincerest hope and prayer that her life would continue to be exemplary, so that her cry can be “imitate me” as confident as Paul was when he wrote to the Corinthian church, which he planted, nurtured, and fathered. If so, then she would be honored by God and by all of us.

Now, as to the pre-requisites, in order to be appointed as an elder of Father's House, one must be a deacon of this house. The requirements of being a deacon of Father's House can be summarized in four words: character, character, character, and relationship. I guess it is really two words: Yes, it is Character and Relationship. Let me expound on them through 1 Timothy 3:2-11:

- A deacon of this house must be above reproach.

1 Timothy 3:2

²Now the overseer must be above reproach...

- This means the person must be careful not to be a stumbling block to the others.

2 Corinthians 6:3

³We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

- Going back to Tim Tebow, he told the reporter that the reason why he does not drink or have tattoos on his body is because he doesn't want to be responsible for a kid looking up him and saying, "Hey, Tebow's doing it, and I am going to do it too," and make a bad decision.
- Likewise, a deacon must be careful to not be a stumbling block to the others.
- A deacon of this house must be the husband of but one wife // The woman of but one husband.
 - 1 Timothy 3:2
 - ²Now the overseer must be...the husband of but one wife...
 - This means the person must be devoted to the spouse, and not flirt around with others.
- A deacon of this house must be full of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Timothy 3:2-3
 - ²Now the overseer must be...temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- A deacon of this house must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect
 - 1 Timothy 3:4-5
 - ⁴[The overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)
- A deacon of this house must have history with God
 - 1 Timothy 3:6
 - ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.
 - At Father's House, it is our policy that a deacon must have served as a leader for at least three years in a ministry context.
- A deacon of this house must be full of the Holy Spirit and His Wisdom
 - Acts 6:3
 - ³Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.
 - The measure of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is measured by the amount of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and not by the demonstration of power, anointing, or gifts.
 - Galatians 5:22-23
 - ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control.
- A deacon of this house must have good reputation with outsiders
 - 1 Timothy 3:7
 - ⁷He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.
- A deacon of this house must have clear conscience in his or her faith
 - 1 Timothy 3:9
 - ⁹They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

- A deacon of this house must have been tested to be nothing against him or her
1Timothy 3:10
¹⁰They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.
- A deacon of this house, if married, must have a spouse worthy of respect
1Timothy 3:11
¹¹In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.
- A deacon of this house must have extended relationship with this house.
1Timothy 5:22
²²Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands..
 - At Father's House, a deacon must have served as a leader for at least three years, in which two of the three years must be for Father's House Ministries.
 - I believe it takes at least two years working together to really get to know the character of people.
 - I have had many who have great potentials as leaders leave this house, because they wanted to be appointed as leaders before we were led to appoint them as leaders.
 - They were eager to be known as leaders of Father's House, rather than serving the community.
 - I had one instance when one sister would tell me how important she was in her former church, how she was devoted to the pastor even though it was split up, how she defended her pastor till the very end, and how anointed and gifted she was. She then promoted herself in every opportunity. When she was asked to serve as a member for awhile, without a title, she left the church.
 - Although I am sorry to see them go, but I believe it is better for this house and for all of us that our appointments are done carefully, only upon an instruction from the LORD is clear and with the people who have walked with us and been tested through a period of time, to protect our members and this church.

Now, having stated the requirements for deacons, I would like to honor our deacons at this time. I would like to have Arief Naftali (representing both Arief and Grace), Tammy Rivera, and Catalina Solis come up, so that I may pray for them with the entire congregation.

- Now, Arief and Grace are one of the founding members of this church, the former worship directors and leaders of the evangelism ministry, current worship leaders and the directors of Children's ministry, as well as fellowship leaders in their home. Arief is a department manager of a civil engineering company, scouted by the company for his excellence in the field. Grace was an engineer for a technology company, especially working with heat transfer materials, now she is a stay-home mom working towards a business. When you see them, you see an example of humility and tempered life...even though they are quite young.

- Tammy Rivera has served as the director of Children's ministry for the last six years, now serving as an instructor within the Teaching Ministry overseen by Pastor Sheila and serving as the fellowship group leader in a weekly teaching fellowship in her home. She is a corporate consultant to Wells Fargo bank. When you see her, you see an example of excellence and wisdom.
- Catalina Solis has served as the assistant director of Children's ministry for the last six years, and served truly selflessly as the director of fellowship lunch ministry, serving all of us with weekly homemade hot food. She was an office administrator at a technology company for over twenty years, now waiting for a new job. When you see her, you see an example of hospitality and servanthood.

As I look at our deacons, I am mighty proud of them and so very much thankful that they are a part of this house; I am certain that you all agree. With that, let us all extend our hands and pray for them.

- Pray for them to rise & shine and fulfill all the LORD has for them.

Now, going back to appointing Louise as an elder of this house...

In order to be an elder of this house, one must meet all the requirements of being a deacon and the following additional requirements.

- An elder of this house must have extended relationship with this house.
1 Timothy 5:22
²²Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands.
 - At Father's House, an elder must have served as a deacon or an elder for at least five years, in which three of the five years must be as a deacon for Father's House Ministries.
 - Considering it takes at least two years in Father's House to be a deacon and additional three years in Father's House as a deacon to be an elder, it takes a good five years of relationship to be an elder.
 - Although none of these are hard-line rules, it should show that we value relationship here at Father's House, character tested through time.
- An elder of this house must have heart to be a father or a mother to the members.
1 Corinthians 4:15
¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
- An elder of this house must have no reservation in leading the members by stating "imitate me."
1 Corinthians 4:16
¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.
- An elder of this house must tithe to this house and be generous beyond tithing.
1 Tim 3:2-3
²Now the overseer must be above reproach...not a lover of money.
 - In fact, I believe this requirement to tithe is a prerequisite to be a deacon in Father's House, but I understand that there could be certain temporary financial hardship that may be an obstacle to tithing due to weakened faith.
 - I say due to weakened faith, because tithing is a command from God and it is the key to the strength of the church and the key to the personal financial breakthroughs.

- I strongly believe that when a person is in a financial hardship, it is especially the time when the tithe needs be offered as living sacrifice unto the LORD to break through the financial hardship; tithe is faith expressed in worship of God Who Provides.
- So, although it may not be a prerequisite to an appointment as a deacon, but it still is a significant factor to be considered even for an appointment as a deacon.
- As an elder or a pastor, I believe one must lead by example, through having demonstrated faith by deeds. Therefore, history of tithing is a prerequisite to be an elder or a pastor.

Now, having laid out all the prerequisites to be an elder, I am confident that Louise has met all the requirements, demonstrated by her love and faith. So, I would like to invite Louise to come up and receive the appointment and laying on of hands.

Pastors...
Everyone...

A charge:

Now, as an elder of Father's House, I would like to repeat my two charges for her. The first is to keep up the good work and the second is to continue to be a mother figure of this congregation by being a mother. Not just being a good teacher or being a good example, but becoming a mother of those in need of comfort, acknowledgment, greeting, encouragement, and prayer.

[1 Corinthians 4:15-16](#)

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