



*Elders*

SHEPHERDING  
GOD'S  
FLOCK

*(Why Do We Need Them?)*

1 PETER 5:1-4



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *What Is An Elder?*

### **1 Peter 5:1-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## What Is An Elder?

### 1 Peter 5

<sup>1</sup> The **elders** who are among you, shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Descriptive terms referencing the same office / position

“Elders” (presbuteros)

“Shepherd” (poimaino)

“Overseers” (episkopeo)



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## *What Is An Elder?*

### **The terms elder, bishop & pastor**

*Descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.*

- ◆ **Elder** - [*presbuteros (n)*] denotes age and seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences. Acts 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1
- ◆ **Bishop** – [*episkopos (n); episkopeo (v)*] – Denotes the overseeing function – not legislative, but leading and enforcing within the Law of God – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; (Heb 13:7,17)
- ◆ **Pastor, shepherd** – [*poimen (n); poimaino (v)*] – Emphasizes the care, watching and feeding of the flock of God over which they have been appointed. – Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2



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## *The Need For Elders*

### **Acts 14:23 (NKJV)**

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

After Paul & Barnabas had converted many in Lystra, they retraced their travels through Asia Minor appointing elders in every church.

They then returned to Antioch bringing their first evangelistic journey to a close [46-48 AD]. (Acts 14:21-26)



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## *The Need For Elders*

### **Acts 14:23 (NKJV)**

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

“The use of the plural here implies what was true at Philippi (Phil. 1:1) and Ephesus (Acts 20:17, 28) that each church (one in each city) “had its college of elders” (Hackett) as in Jerusalem (21:18).”

Robertson, A. (1933). Word Pictures in the New Testament. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Need For Elders*

### **Titus 1:5 (NKJV)**

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you

The absence of elders was considered by Paul as that which was “lacking.”

Paul perceived the appointment of elders as something necessary for a local church to function and mature as it should.



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## *The Qualifications of An Elder*

### **1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. <sup>2</sup> A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; <sup>3</sup> not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; <sup>4</sup> one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence <sup>5</sup> (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); <sup>6</sup> not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.



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## *The Qualifications of An Elder*

### **Titus 1:6-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. <sup>7</sup> For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, <sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### **1 Timothy 3:1 (NKJV)**

This is a faithful saying:  
If a man  
desires the  
position of a  
bishop, he  
desires a good  
work.

### A Devoted Man

- ✦ This is not the desire to possess authority according to self will, but to serve God and brethren as a conscientious steward (Titus 1:7; I Peter 5:2, 3).
- ✦ The objective of his work is the glory of God and the salvation of souls.



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Godly Man



- ◆ “Blameless” - (1 Tim 3:2)
- ◆ “Of Good Behavior” - (1 Tim 3:2)
- ◆ “Just” - (Tit 1:8)
- ◆ “Holy, <sup>NKJV</sup> / Devout <sup>ASV</sup>” - (Tit 1:8)



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Godly Man

- ◆ Elders are to be examples to the flock (I Peter 5:3).
- ◆ They should be men worthy of imitation (Heb. 13:7).
- ◆ Their example in the community will reflect even more powerfully on the entire congregation.
- ◆ They need to be known in the community as men of integrity.





# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Peaceful Man



- ◆ He is to be a man of self control, not quick tempered (Titus 1:7-8)
- ◆ He is not contentious - (I Timothy 3:3).
- ◆ He is not self-willed (Titus 1:7).



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Peaceful Man



- ◆ Elders find themselves counseling brethren in highly emotional and volatile situations.
- ◆ They often have to mediate situations where numerous parties are involved in sin.
- ◆ They must confront brethren in sin and stop the efforts of false teachers.
- ◆ They must bear up under false accusations by some who will criticize without knowing all the facts about a situation.



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Family Man



- ◆ “The husband of one wife” (I Tim 3:2).
- ~ One must be married (*True, . . .*)
- ~ A man cannot be an adulterer or polygamist (*True, . . .*)
- ~ Literally, in the Greek the phrase may be rendered as a “one woman man.” - An overseer must have demonstrated faithfulness in his marriage.
- ~ Not merely that he is a husband, but that he is a devoted husband.



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Qualified Man



- ◆ “One who rules his own house well” - (I Tim 3:4).
- ~ He must have submissive and obedient children - (I Tim. 3:3, 4; Titus 1:6).
- ~ Child/Children argument - [*The Greek word “teknon” is comprehensive / plural, but inclusive of the singular; cf Gen. 21:7; Deut. 25:5; Mat. 22:24; Luke 20:28-33; I Tim. 5:4,9,10).*]



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Qualified Man



- ◆ “One who rules his own house well” - (I Tim 3:4).
- ~ Often lost in all of the discussions over “plurality of children” and “faithful children” is the basic qualification –
- ~ A man **MUST** have demonstrated the ability to keep his children “under control with all dignity.”
- ~ The Family teaches and gives evidence of one’s leadership abilities.



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Qualified Man



- ◆ “One who rules his own house well” - (I Tim 3:4).
- ~ The reason for the qualification is explicitly stated (I Timothy 3:5)
- ~ Has he demonstrated the ability to be a servant / leader, to be tender, but also to administer discipline and correction?
- ~ Does he have the relational skills to work with people / provide wise counsel & guidance / provide discipline.



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Capable Man



- ◆ “Able to teach” - (1 Tim. 3:2)
  - ☞ The Greek term here is *didaktikon* which means “skilled in teaching” (Vine).
- ◆ Not a novice, but mature Christian - (1 Tim 3:6), *Able to lead by example and take oversight with humility* - (I Pet. 5:2, 3).
- ◆ Equipped to Protect (Titus 1:9-11; cf. Acts 20:28-29; I Tim 3:5; Titus 1:9-11).



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Sensible Man



- ◆ Elders are to be temperate and sober minded, prudent - (I Tim. 3:2).
- ~ Eyes open to the way things are.
- ~ He must be careful, wise and use good judgment - able to see the big picture.
- ~ He is not to be led by emotion, but sound reason.
- ~ He is committed to truth even under pressure.



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## *The Character of An Elder*

### A Caring Man



- ◆ Elders are to “take care of the church of God” - (I Tim. 3:5).
  - ~ Encourage & support weak members - (Gal. 6:1; James 5:13-16)
  - ~ Approachable - (1 Tim 3:3)
  - ~ He needs to know the flock - (Jn 10:3,14)
- ◆ Elders are to be “hospitable” - (I Tim. 3:2).
  - ~ Providing for the needs of others - (Heb. 13:1-3)



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Character of An Elder*

The church of today & tomorrow  
**NEEDS** godly leadership!

- ~ Godly leadership is extremely important in a local church!
- ~ Every father & mother should strive to raise their sons and daughters in a way that will equip them to be faithful servants of God -
- ~ Every young man should strive to grow and mature in the faith - make wise decisions - that will prepare him so that one day he will be able to serve & help shepherd the Lord's flock.



# Elders - Shepherding God's Flock

## *The Character of An Elder*



Is the Lord  
your  
Shepherd?  
If not, please  
come to Him  
today!







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## *The Character of An Elder*

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# Ezekiel 34:7-10 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> 'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup> "as I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"--



# Ezekiel 34:7-10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>10</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them."