

Where Do Elders Come From?

Scripture Reading: *1 Timothy 3:1-7*

- A. Why are elders (bishops, pastors, overseers) so scarce in local churches of Christ?
- B. Perhaps we could find some answers if we trace, step by step, where elders come from.

I. Elders come from _____ — men and women who, by the power of God, have been radically _____. (*John 3:3-6*)

II. Elders originate from Christians who are _____. (*Acts 4:4; 5:14; 8:12*)

III. Elders, by definition, are to be taken from among Christian men who are _____ in years and in the faith. (*1 Timothy 3:6*)

IV. Elders are drawn from mature Christian men who are _____. (*1 Timothy 3:2*)

V. Elders are to be taken from mature Christian men who are married and have _____. (*Titus 1:6; 1 Timothy 3:4*)

VI. From among mature Christian family men with many different abilities, there are bound to be some who are effective _____. (*1 Timothy 3:2*)

Conclusion:

- A. From all these qualifications of elders, there is nothing more significant as the fact that they are devoted _____.
- B. **What we must face:** the Holy Spirit makes elders out of devoted Christians, and churches that are filled with half-hearted and indifferent disciples won't have much material to work with.