

ELDERS

What?

Who?

How?

Why?

What?

Titles and Descriptions denote:

- **Maturity**
- **Work**
- **Function**

KJV	Scripture	ESV	NASB
Bishop	1 Tim. 3:1-2	Overseer	Overseer
Elder	1 Pet. 5:1	Elder	Elder
Overseer	Acts 20:28	Overseer	Overseer
Pastor	Eph. 4:11	Shepherd	Pastor
Presbytery	1 Tim. 4:14	Council of Elders	Presbytery
Rule*	Heb. 13:7, 17	Leader	Leader
Feed*	1 Pet. 5:2	Shepherd	Shepherd

What?

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Elders' Roles

“shepherd”, “feed” or “tend”	Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2
“examples”	1 Pet 5:3
“rule” / “rule over you”	Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 3:4; 1 Thess. 5:12
“watch”	Acts 20:31; Heb. 13:17
“steward”	Titus 1:7
“admonish”	1 Thess. 5:13
“take care of”	1 Tim. 3:5

Our Role

“respect” and “appreciate” them	1 Thess. 5:12
“esteem them very highly in love”	1 Thess. 5:13
“obey” them	Heb. 13:17
“submit” to them	Heb. 13:17

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

Heb. 13:17

Who?

1 Tim. 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

Reproachable

Able to be blamed

No brawler

No striker / violent

No striker / violent

Not contentious / quarrelsome

No lover of money

Not greedy of sordid gain

Not a novice / recent convert

Not quick-tempered

Not given to wine

Not given to wine

Not self-willed / arrogant

Negative

Qualifications:

• What an Elder is not...

Reproach - “shame or disgrace or that which brings rebuke or censure upon a person.”

Blamelessness refers to public respectability as an outgrowth of private moral character.

Who?

1 Tim. 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

Husband of one wife

Husband of one wife

Temperate

Sober minded / prudent

Sensible

Orderly / good behavior / respectable

Given to hospitality

Lover of hospitality

Able to teach

Able to exhort, refute / rebuke

Gentle / patient

Rules well his own house

Having children that believe & behave

Good reputation from outside

Self-controlled

Holy / devout

Lover of good

Just / upright

Positive

Qualifications:

- What an Elder is...

Who?

- **Men possessing the qualities of:**
 - Unimpeachable Character
 - Exemplary Family
 - Reputable Background
 - Demonstrated Ability
- **Not “*perfect*” men, but men of God...**
 - devoted to the “*perfect law of liberty*” (James 1:25)
 - pressing on to “*perfection*” (Heb. 6:1)
 - “*perfectly*” furnished unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:17)

*“The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy
of double honor...”*

1 Tim. 5:17

How?

- **No specific method prescribed**
- **Acts 6:1-6**
 - Similar incident but not specific example
 - *Elders* not mentioned
 - *Deacons* not mentioned (deacon-like duties)
 - Not a binding pattern for elder or deacon selection
 - Perhaps wise to consider
 - Can't be dogmatic about it

How?

- **Titus 1:5**
 - Evangelist given the task
 - Appointing of elders specified
 - Method not specified
- **Method not specified, but the qualifications are repeated...**
- **In a sense, the Holy Spirit is doing the selecting**
- **Scripture focuses on the who, not the how...**
 - And so should we

How?

Principles to guide us:

- **Decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40)**
- **Realize we are in the realm of judgment:**
 - Humble about our own opinions (Rom.12:16)
 - Esteem the opinions of others (Phil. 2:3)
- **In submission to current leadership (Heb. 13:17)**

Why?

- So we can be led
- So we can be fed
- So we can be guarded
- So they can watch out for our souls

Because sheep need shepherds

“When He saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matt. 9:36)

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”

Eph. 4:11-12

*“And **He gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds** and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”*

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