

Qualifications of an Elder

1 Timothy 3:1-7



CHURCH ELDERS

The Lord is My Shepherd

Psalms 23:1-4:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

Jesus the Good Shepherd

- **John 10:11** - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Jesus Challenges Peter to Shepherd the Flock

- **John 21:15-17** - When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, **“Feed my lambs.”** 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, **Tend my sheep.** 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, **“Feed my sheep.**

3 Leadership Qualities of Shepherds

1. Lead

2. Heal/Care

3. Protect

Biblical Definition of an Elder

- Original Greek – πρεσβύτερος
- Definition - a mature man having seasoned judgment (experience); an elder.
- The New Testament specifies elders are men. (The feminine singular, presbytera, never occurs in the Bible.)
- The feminine plural, presbyteras, occurs in 1 Timothy 5:2. It refers to aged women, not women with an official church office or title.
- **1 Timothy 5:2** - **older women** as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Biblical Definition of an Elder

- **This is in accordance with the teaching of Paul:**
- **1 Timothy 2:12** - I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Elders - LEAD

- **1 Timothy 3:1-2** - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

Able to Teach

- **James 3:1** - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.
- **Titus 1:9** - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.
- **2 Timothy 2:24-26** - And the Lord's servant^l must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Elders – HEAL/CARE

- **1 Timothy 3:3** - not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

NOT VIOLENT, BUT GENTLE

- **1 Peter 5:1-4** -I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 **not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.**

Elders – PROTECT THE FLOCK

- **1 Timothy 3:4-7** - He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders

- **Acts 20:28-30** - Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.
- **Acts 20:35** - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The Flocks Responsibility to the Elders/Shepherds

- **1 Timothy 5:17** – Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.
- **Hebrews 13:17** - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.