

## ELDER/ELDERS

**bold** = what elders do

**blue** = qualifications for elders

Acts 14:22-23

23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

### WHAT ELDERS ARE & DO:

Acts 20:17-30

17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ...

28 **Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock** of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. **Be shepherds** of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

1 Peter 5:1-4

5:1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 **Be shepherds** of God's flock that is under your care, serving as **overseers**-not because you must, but because you are **willing**, as God wants you to be; **not greedy for money, but eager to serve**; 3 **not lording it over** those entrusted to you, but **being examples** to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Eph 4:11

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

NT:4166

Greek : poimen (poy-mane!); of uncertain affinity; a shepherd (literally or figuratively):

1 Tim 4:14

4 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders **laid their hands on you**.

James 5:14

14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church **to pray over him** and **anoint him with oil** in the name of the Lord.

Acts 11:27-30

27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Administered a gift of money.

Acts 21:17-19

17 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly. 18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. 19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

1 Tim 5:17-20

17 The elders who **direct** the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is **preaching and teaching** \*. 18 For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

\* - some must not have had this particular work

## QUALIFICATIONS:

Titus 1:5-9

5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. 6 An elder must be

- blameless,
- the husband of but one wife,
- a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7

Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be

- blameless-not overbearing,
- not quick-tempered,
- not given to drunkenness,
- not violent,
- not pursuing dishonest gain.

8 Rather he must be

- hospitable,
- one who loves what is good,
- who is self-controlled,
- upright,
- holy and
- disciplined.

9 He must

- hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught,

so that he can

- encourage others by sound doctrine and
- refute those who oppose it.

1 Tim 3:1-13

3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

2 Now the overseer must be

- above reproach,
  - the husband of but one wife,
  - temperate,
  - self-controlled,
  - respectable,
  - hospitable,
  - able to teach,
  - not given to drunkenness,
  - not violent but gentle,
  - not quarrelsome,
  - not a lover of money.
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- He must manage his own family well and
  - see that his children obey him with proper respect.

(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

Endnotes:

1. While all can teach,

Heb 5:11-13

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Col 3:15-17

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

some are particularly gifted and called to that ministry.

James 3:1-2

3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Acts 13:1-3

13:1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Other

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Apostles and elders worked together in Acts 15, 16

Acts 15:1-6

15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. 3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."

6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Acts 15:22-23

22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers. 23 With them they sent the following letter:

Acts 15:23

The apostles and elders, your brothers,

Acts 16:4-5

4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

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