
Elder Roles

THE CHURCH

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We believe that the Church, whose Head is Christ Jesus her Lord, is to be led by biblically qualified men called elders, who are assisted in service by biblically qualified deacons. Properly appointed Elders are the “pastors/shepherds” of the Church. Elder selection is on the basis of character, calling, and spiritual giftedness.

[Acts 14:23, 20:17-35](#) | [1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-25](#) | [Titus 1:5-9](#) | [Hebrews 13:17](#) | [1 Peter 5:1-5](#)

Properly appointed Elders are the “pastors/shepherds” of the Church and as such are...

To Teach Biblical Truth

Elders lead the body in the work of the Great Commission making disciples, baptizing, and teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. They lead the body in being devoted to the teachings of the Apostles. Elders preach the gospel, make disciples, strengthen souls, and encourage the body in truth. They are to hold fast the Word of God as well as teach the whole Word of God. Elders are able to teach one-on-one and/or in larger environments as well as approve and prepare Bible teachers.

[Matt 28: 19,20](#) | [Acts 2:41,42](#) | [Acts 11:21,22](#) | [Titus 1:9](#) | [Acts 20:27](#) | [1Tim 3:2](#) | [Acts 6:4](#) | [1 Timothy 3:2, 4:6, 4:16, 5:7, 5:17, 6:2](#) | [2 Timothy 2:2, 2:14, 2:24-25, 4:2](#) | [Titus 2:1, 2:15, 3:8](#)

To Maintain the Doctrinal Purity of the Church

Elders, as overseers, are to guard and protect the flock from false teaching by exhorting the body in sound doctrine and refuting those who contradict it.

They are called to silence false teachers.

[Acts 20:28-31](#) | [Titus 1:9](#) | [Titus 1:11](#) | [1 Timothy 1:3, 4:6](#)

To Model Christ-Like Behavior

The life of an elder should exhort and encourage the body to walk in a manner worthy of God. They are to be devout, upright, and blameless and an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. As examples of good deeds, pure doctrine, dignity, and sound speech, they are to be examples to the flock to be followed and respected by the whole church.

[1 Thes 2:10-12](#) | [1 Tim 4:12-13](#) | [Titus 2:7-8](#) | [1 Peter 5:3](#) | [Acts 20:28](#) | [1 Tim 3:1-7](#) | [Titus 1:7-9](#)

To Oversee and Care for the Needs of the Body

Elders oversee the distribution of contributions to the needy, help the weak, and minister to the sick. They identify spiritual needs and provide, when necessary, Biblical counseling. They are called to intercede for members in prayer and discern the spiritual health of the body.

[Acts 11:29-30](#) | [1 Corinthians 16:3-4](#) | [Acts 20:35](#) | [James 5:14](#) | [James 5:14, Acts 6:4](#) | [Acts 20:28](#) | [1 Peter 5:2-3](#) | [Hebrews 13:27](#)

To Lead the Flock

Elders are to rule well, standing before, leading, or attending to the flock as their own family. The shepherding of the flock is by exercising oversight, as well as appointing other elders, deacons, and key leaders. Elders approve those who could be “sent”, and are watchful for others to train.

[1 Timothy 5:17](#) | [1 Peter 5:1-4](#) | [1 Thessalonians 5:12](#) | [1 Timothy 3:4-5](#) | [2 Timothy 2:2](#) | [1 Timothy 5:22](#) | [Titus 1:5](#)

To Discipline and Correct Improper Behavior

Elders discipline by admonishing the unruly, intervening and helping those struggling with sin, and addressing weak believers who complain or cause disputes.

[1 Thes 5:12-14](#), [1 Cor4:14](#) | [Gal 6:1-2](#) | [2 Tim 4:2](#), [Titus 1:13, 2:15, 3:1](#)

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