

"A Good Elder is Hard to Find"

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 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, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 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.

The Role of Elders in the Local Church

Elders are to lead the church.

Elders are to shepherd the church.

Elders are stewards of the church.

The Qualifications of Elders in the Local Church

Elders must be reputable.

Elders must prioritize their families.

Elders must be self-controlled.

Elders must minister.

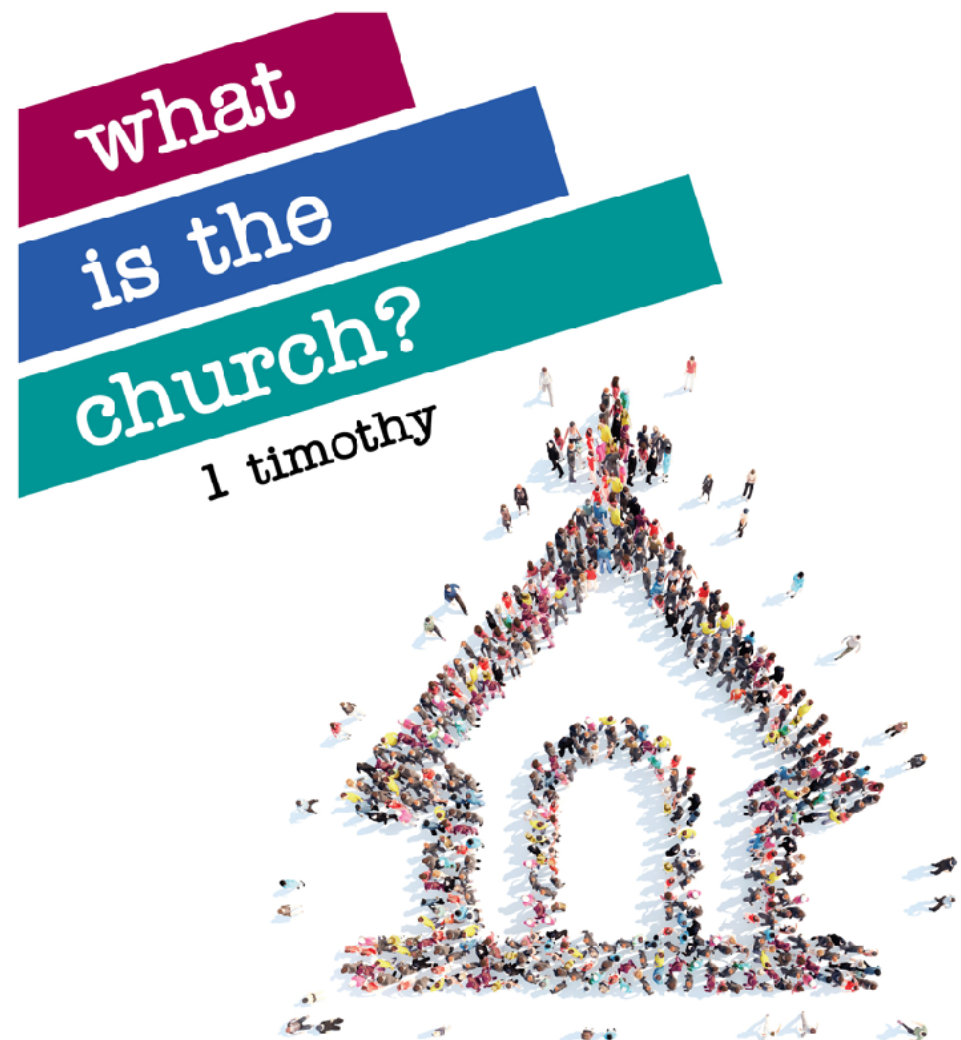
Elders must be mature.

Life Group or Family Discussion Questions:

1. Have you had good or bad experiences with church leadership in the past? In what ways have you seen churches take on the "characteristics" of their leaders (for better or worse)?
2. This week we saw two primary responsibilities for elders: leading the church and shepherding the church. What do these two terms mean? How are they different? How are they similar? How do they play out in our church?
3. **Read Titus 1:7.** What does the Bible mean when it talks about "stewardship"? What does it mean to be "stewards" of God's church? Why does God consider elders the stewards of his church?
4. Why is it important for future elders to be involved in the ministry of the local church? How are you involved in the ministry of our church?
5. **Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7.** What qualifications for elders stand out to you? What do these qualifications teach us about elders?
6. **Read Titus 1:5-9.** How do Paul's qualifications in Titus compare to those in 1 Timothy? What does Paul mean in verse 9?
7. **Read Acts 20:17-38.** What can we learn about eldership from Paul's words to the Ephesian elders? What warnings does Paul give to the elders? Are those warnings important for today? Why or why not?
8. **Read 1 Peter 5:1-4.** What is Peter's main charge to elders? What is the relationship between elders and Jesus "the Chief Shepherd"?
9. Of our three charges: (1) lead well; (2) cultivate these qualifications; and (3) pray for your leaders, which is most important for you?

Healthy churches start with healthy leaders.

Mar 13 - 1 Timothy 3:8-13 • Mar 19 - 1 Timothy 3:14-16



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March 5th, 2017

Sundays

CW Classes Hour
Worship Service



9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.