

Responsibilities of Elders

Shepherds – to care for, to feed, to guard and protect

Be shepherds of God's flock. 1Peter 5:2 ("Pastor" is latin for shepherd.)

Be shepherds of the church of God – Acts 20:28

Jesus is the "Great Shepherd" (Senior Pastor) – Mt 2:6, Jn 10:2-16, Heb 13:20, 1Pet 2:25

Matthew 9:36 – people without a sheep are harassed and wander

John 21:16 - Jesus said, "Take care (pastor) of my sheep."

The hard work of caring for relational and spiritual needs -1Thess 5:12-15

- they admonish the congregation
- warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak
- make sure no one pays back wrong for wrong
- pray for the sick – James 5:14-16
- hear and help people confess their sins – James 5:14-16
- attempt to bring back backsliders – James 5:19-20
- See to it that a person does not stay bitter and cause trouble and defile many. – Heb 12:14
- See to it that no one is sexually immoral – Hebrews 12:15

Teaching (in counseling, small groups, or sermons)

- "able to teach" – 1Timothy 3:2
- "encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it" – Titus 1:9
- "teaching them to obey everything I (Jesus) have commanded you" – Matt 28:20
- "devote yourself to ...preaching and to teaching" – 1Timothy 4:13
- "command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer" – 1Timothy 1:3
- They do "not hesitate to preach anything that would be helpful to you" – Acts 20:20
- They teach "you publicly and from house to house." – Acts 20:20
- They equip the saints – so that the saints can minister in their callings – Eph. 4:11-12

Overseers – to lead and govern

"Serving as overseers" – 1Peter 5:2.

The word "overseer" is used in every major scripture about church elders.

Acts 20:28, Phil. 1:1, 1Tim 3:1 & 1, Titus 1:7, 1Peter 5:2

They "direct the affairs of the church" – 1Timothy 5:17

They "are over" the congregation. -1Thess 5:12. This is the same word used for a father "managing" his family - 1Timothy 3:4

Examples

"Being examples to the flock" - 1Peter 5:2

"Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." – Hebrews 13:7

(Hint: If you were to die, would you entrust your children and teenagers to be raised in the environment of this man's home?)

Qualifications for Elders or Church Leaders

Eligible	Not Eligible
Desires this type of work	Does it only if has too
Above reproach. Their lives are examples that will be duplicated – 1Peter 5:3.	There is a blemish in his character? What is the outcome of their way of life? – Hebrew 13:7
Husband of one wife. This is not a command for marriage, but a requirement of sexual purity and faithfulness to his wife	A polygamist. An unfaithful husband, A known flirt, a porn consumer
Temperate, Sober-minded, Stable	Unstable under pressure, rash
Self-controlled, Prudent, Discreet	Lack of common sense or objectivity
Respectable, orderliness	Not well-behaved
Hospitable – (in an era prior to hotels, he was the hotel) he invites traveling ministers into his home & welcomes newcomers	Rarely invites people, other than family, into his home.
Ability to teach (1Tim. 3). Able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also rebuke those who contradict it (Titus 1:9). May teach through counseling, leading a small group, or giving a sermon.	Does not know the Bible. Is unfamiliar with Christian doctrines.
Abstains or drinks modestly	Is overindulgent with alcoholic drinks. Or addicted to drugs.
Gentle. Even tempered in conflicts. Gracious. Forbearing.	Treats others roughly or harshly. Violent, Pugnacious , Quick-tempered
Is approachable, humble. Peaceable. Will patiently discuss things. Team-player.	Contentious. Quarrelsome, Self-willed Arrogant, Often defensive.
Model of contentment and faith in God’s provision.	In it for the money. Likes money schemes. Or financially dishonest.
Ability to manage (lead & care for) his children well in an honorable way ... this means he has learned raise his children so they are believers in the Lord and they respect and obey him as a godly father. He has not been so overbearing that they are exasperated or discouraged. He has not so lenient they are wild or rebellious.	He has managed or cared for his children poorly. His children do not respect him and are faithless or wild. A man will eventually care for the church in the same way (well or poorly) as he did his wife and family.
A believer of longstanding good character	A recent convert. A beginner, no matter how gifted, takes time to develop character.
A good reputation among nonbelievers	Is not well thought of by non-Christians
A lover of good. Is helpful. Generous	Not known to be helpful or generous
Just, Upright	Can be counted on to be principled or law abiding
Holy, Committed to devotion to God	Not devout about his faith
Disciplined	Desires are not reign in Follow through is hit and miss