



WHAT IS BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP?

A QUICK SUMMARY

BIBLICAL
PASTORAL
BIBLICALLY QUALIFIED
SPIRIT-APPOINTED
PLURALITY OF ELDERSHIP

FIVE ASPECTS

(ACTS 20. TITUS 1. 1 TIMOTHY CH. 3&5. 1 PETER CH.5)

I BIBLICAL

Titus 1:5. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.

- Intentional
- Command
- Expected

God of order has given an order regarding the order for church leadership.

II PASTORAL

PAUL

Acts 20:28. *"So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd (Pastor) God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood*—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.*"*

PETER

1 Peter 5:1-2. *"Therefore I exhort the elders among you ...shepherd (pastor) the flock of God among you, exercising oversight."*

To no other group, or to no other person is the command given to shepherd the flock of God.

SHEPHERDING /PASTORAL

FIVE ASPECTS

1. Two Purposes:

Titus 1:9. *“He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.”*
(NLT)

“...So that He will be able both

1. *to exhort in sound doctrine, and*
2. *to refute those who contradict.”*

2. Qualifications of an Elder

1 Tim 3:2. *“...able to teach”*

3. Labour in Preaching and Teaching

1 Tim 5:17. *“The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honour, especially (Not all have a pulpit ministry) those who work hard at preaching and teaching.”*

This feeding ministry maybe the first and foremost aspects of eldership.

SHEPHERDING

1.

TEACHING

Acts 20:29. *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

Paul exhorts both to:

- Guard oneself, and
- Guard the flock

To guard and protect the flock from the archenemy of the church which is the devil.

SHEPHERDING

2.

PROTECTING

1 Tim 3:4. *“One that ruleth well...”*

- Example of a shepherd and his responsibility.
- Called to be active leaders.

Where the leaders are not active the flock will be confused.

SHEPHERDING

3.

LEADING

Titus 1:7. *"...as the steward of God"*

- Resource management is a great responsibility
- Using for the godly use and growth of the flock and the Kingdom of God.

SHEPHERDING

4.

MANAGING

James 5:14-15. *"Is anyone sick among you? Then he must call for the elders of the Church and they are to pray over him."*

Practical Ministry

- Counseling
- Life events
- Dealing with the needs of the sick

SHEPHERDING

5.

PRACTICAL

III BIBLICALLY QUALIFIED

Qualifications of the elders are emphasised throughout the NT.

1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3.

- **Moral and Spiritual:** Be morally and spiritually qualified.
- **Good Reputation:** (Titus 1:6) Have a good reputation both inside and outside the church.
- **Example:** (1 Peter 5:3) Good examples to the flock.
- **Know the Bible:** Know the Bible to be able to teach the Word

Biblical eldership is an eldership that meets these God given qualifications.

IV SPIRIT APPOINTED

Acts 20:28. "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.*

We must recognize that it is the Holy Spirit who *tithēmi* -- “makes”, “places”, “calls” “appoints” elders or oversers.

Church must have elders who are so called, gifted and motivated to do the work.



V PLURALITY OF ELDERS

Usage in the Bible: Except when referring to the qualifications, the usage in the Bible is always in the plural.

Example of Disciples: Our Lord calls 12 apostles .Did not appoint one person as a leader. Peter however, is the natural mouthpiece.

Equality in diversity: Equality in the decision making of the local church, but there is still the diversity in the eldership.

Diversity in gifting: Nobody has all the gifts required, especially in leading.

- Difference in gifts
- Difference in calling
- Difference in experience
- Difference in the amount of time, and effort they contribute.

1 Tim 5:17-18. “...especially...”. Equality with diversity.

IMPORTANCE OF ELDERSHIP

ABCD

APPROVED IN THE SCRIPTURES

It is Scriptural.



...and that is good enough for us.



BALANCING OF THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Eldership brings a balanced approach to the leadership.



It is NOT

- Committee based, or
- Compromise led

But gifts, experience and perspectives are used to bring a balance to the church leadership

CULTURE WHERE THE TRUE NATURE OF THE CHURCH IS PROMOTED

Church is not an Organization but it must be organized.



The nature of the Church must and promote the nature and character of the local church.

- Local Church is made up of spirit-indwelling saints who have a variety of gifts
- Opportunities are created to use these gifts to build the saints
- Biblical Eldership promotes the family nature of the Church.

DISCIPLINE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Leaders recognize their frailties and fallenness.

- Increases the need for accountability.
- Add to the mix the tendency to laziness and procrastination.



Elders are shepherds to one another. They hold one another accountable; protect one another and teach one another.

AND WHEN THE CHIEF SHEPHERD
SHALL APPEAR, YE SHALL RECEIVE
A CROWN OF GLORY THAT FADETH
NOT AWAY.

1 PETER 5:4