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Elders In The Church

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ELDERS IN THE CHURCH


INT: God's Church is an organism (body) which, to function properly must be organized (I Cor. 14:40).

All organizations have a distribution of responsibility and work. Same with church. Leaders and followers.

Organization of the church the most serious because the souls of men are involved. Considered with fear.

Our study: Of elders in the church. Place and functions.

I. WHAT ARE ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

1. Elders are: Pastors, bishops, shepherds, episcopals, presbyters, overseers. All mean same person.
   a. Men of advanced age, experience, wisdom and love.
   b. Men capable of serving the Lord as overseers.

II. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS. Tried and true.

6. Given to hospitality: Offering service to others.
7. Apt to teach: Consecrated student; able to convey.
8. Not given to wine: Lest lead the weak into ruin.
13. Not a novice: Eldership not a honorary position, but a position of work and grave responsibility. Older!
14. Good report from those without church: Able to take a stand for right without outside countercharges.
15. Having faithful children: Term is generic not specific. Means one or more. Ill. "All in this audience who have children hold up hand." Those with only one hold hand up? Yes! Try Eph. 6:1.

SUMMARY: An elder's qualifications are exactly those of any Christian, except those dealing with his special work in the church as overseer.

III. PLACE OF THE ELDERS. "We are all brethren." Matt. 23:8.

2. Place of leadership. "You lead and we will follow."
3. More loved and trusted, greater opportunities for servic
IV. WORK OF ELDERS. "Willingly, example, ready mind."
I Pet. 5:2-3.

1. OVERSEE: Manage general affairs of Church.
Acts 20:28


3. WATCH FOR SOULS OF MEMBERS: Heb. 13:17. Watch members carefully and help you strengthen weak points. Quit attending, elders visit and teach you. Quit giving, visit to see why dying spiritually etc.

4. PROTECT: Against grievous wolves or false teachers without or within. Can call any teacher into question to keep poison out of congregation's diet. Titus 1:9


V. ELDER'S REWARD.


3. Double honor if rule well. Salary if working on a full time basis. I Tim. 5:17-18.

INV: Christ, church, Bible, church leaders etc. all provided to help lead you to Heaven.

Want to Go? Obey Christ. B-R-C-B.

Those out of duty or in sin: Can you go? R-P