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## Elders In The Church

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ELDERS IN THE CHURCH

I Tim. 3:1-11. Titus 1:5-9 I Pet. 5:1-14

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.

1. Blameless. Not accused of overt wrong. *No accusations.*
2. Husband of one wife. Married man. One living wife.
3. Vigilant: RV. Temperate. Moderate in all things.
4. Sober: RV. Soberminded. Mature judgment. Anchored.
5. Of good behavior: RV. Orderly. Orderly, well behaved.
6. Given to hospitality: Offering service to others *Strangers.*
7. Apt to teach: Consecrated student; able to convey.
8. Not given to wine: Lest lead the weak into ruin.
9. No striker: Has control of emotions. Not quick tempered.
10. Not greedy of filthy lucre: Understands place of money.
11. Patient: Considerate. Not harsh, stern or bitter.
12. Rules house well: Wife and children love him, obey him.
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.*

1. Entrusted with grave responsibility. Higher obligations.
2. Place of leadership. "You lead and we will follow."
3. More loved and trusted, greater opportunities for service.

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WORKING WITH THE ELDER

IV. WORK OF ELDERS. "Willingly, example, ready mind."  
I Pet. 5:2-3.

- 1. **OVERSEE:** Manage general affairs of Church. Acts 20:28
- 2. **FEED THE FLOCK:** Responsible for seeing the flock is fed God's truth; both in instruction and edification. 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.*
- 5. **VISIT AND PRAY:** James 5:14. Such men loved as father, requested in time of sorrow.
- 6. **LEADING:** the church to higher living, sweeter hospitality, deeper faith, greater knowledge and stronger hope of Heaven. I Pet. 5:1-4.

V. ELDER'S REWARD.

- 1. Crown of glory. I Pet. 5:4.
- 2. Report of joy at judgment. Heb. 13:17.
- 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