

Part 2: Elders (From "Polity- Understanding Church Structure")

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1.) The Elders of a Local Church are to be Plural (Acts 16:4; 20:17; 21:18; Titus 1:5; James 5:14)

2.) The Qualifications of Eldership (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Xenophilo- Lover of Strangers

3.) Historical Overview of the Office of Elder

Episcopos- overseer

Presbuteros- elder

4.) The Relationship Between Elders and Deacons

Read Acts 6:2, 4

5.) The Relationship Between the Elders and Senior Pastor

Poimenas- Pastor/Shepherd

4 Glimpses of the Senior Pastor Role in the Scriptures:

A.) We See Outsiders Appointed From Within a Congregation

B.) We See Some Supported Full Time By the Flock (1Tim 5/Phil 4)

C.) Paul Writes to Timothy Alone, Though Timothy Wasn't Alone

D.) The Seven Letters in Revelation Are Addressed to the Messenger (Singular) (Rev 2-3)

6.) The Relationship Between the Elders and the Church

5 Characteristics of this Relationship:

A.) Clear Recognition

B.) Heartfelt Trust

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17)

"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17)

C.) Evident Godliness

D.) Sincere Carefulness

E.) Beneficial Results

"For your own sake, and your children's sake, cherish and revere him whom you have chosen to be your pastor. Already he loves you; and he will soon love you as 'bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh.' It will be equally your duty and your interest to make his labors as pleasant to him as possible. Do not demand too much. Do not require visits too frequent. Should he spend, in this way, half of the time which some demand, he must wholly neglect his studies, if not sink early under the burden. Do not report to him all the unkind things which may be said against him; nor frequently, in his presence, allude to opposition, if opposition should arise. Though he is a minister of Christ, consider that he has the feelings of a man." –Edward Griffin

*"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. **29** To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." (Colossians 1:28-29)*