

Overview – Elders and Deacons



Philippians 1:1

Voice From The Past



“ . . . [Ambrose] complains in the following terms: the old synagogue and afterward the church, had elders, without whose counsel nothing was done. It has fallen out of use, by what negligence I do not know . . .

John Calvin – 1600 A.D.

Outline



Summary

Team Ministry

Names of Elders

Responsibilities of Elders



Summary

Who Are God's Leaders?

**Paul and Timothy,
bond-servants of
Christ Jesus, to
in Christ Jesus
who are in
Philippi,
including the**

. . . all the saints

. . . overseers

. . . deacons



Congregation



**God's
Leaders**

Philippians 1:1

Overview - How Are They Unique?

Elders

Their Ministry:

- Shepherding
- Overseeing

Unique Qualifications:

- Teacher
- Loves strangers
- Self-Controlled
- Not a new believer

Deacons

Unique Qualifications:

- Tested
- Not double tongued

Their Ministry:

- Helping Elders

All Aspects of Leadership Covered

Topic	Elders	Deacons	Together
Ministry Established	Acts 11:30 Acts 14:23 Titus 1:5	Acts 6:1-6	Phil. 1:1
Qualifications Given	1 Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:6-9	1 Tim. 3:8-12	
Responsibilities Implied & Stated	Acts 15:2-23 Acts 20:17-28 1 Tim. 5:17-19 James 5:14 1 Peter 5:1-5	Acts 6:1-6 1 Tim. 3:12	
Call To Honor	1 Thess. 5:12-14 1 Tim. 5:17-19 Heb. 13:7, 17	1 Thess. 5:12-14 Heb. 13:7	
Guidelines For Discipline	1 Tim. 5:17-19		



***Eldership Is
A Team Ministry***

Elders ~ A Team Ministry

Multiple Elders In Every Church

Acts 11:30	“sending their gift to the elders”
Acts 14:23	“elders in every church”
Acts 15:2-23	“received by . . . the elders”
Acts 16:4	“determined by the . . . elders”
Acts 20:17	“called for the elders”
Acts 21:18	“went with us into . . . the elders”
1 Tim. 5:17-19	“Let the elders”
Titus 1:5	“appoint elders in every city”



Names of Elders

Where They Appear In The N.T.

Elder	Shepherd	Overseer	Deacon	Related Passages
πρεσβυτερος	ποιμην	επισκοπος	διακονος	
Acts 11:30 Acts 14:23 Acts 15:2-23 Acts 16:4 Acts 20:17 Acts 21:18 1 Tim. 5:17-19 Titus 1:5 James 5:14 1 Peter 5:1-5	Acts 20:28 Eph. 4:11 1 Peter 5:2	Acts 20:28 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:6-9	Acts 6:1-6 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:8-12	Acts 6:1-6 1 Thess. 5:12-14 Heb. 13:7, 17

Appear Together

Elders = Overseers = Shepherds

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Same Group of Men



Responsibilities of Elders

Apostle's Priority – Teach & Shepherd

Acts 6:1-2, 4

Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of *food*. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said,

It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables . . . (v.2) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (v. 4)

The Priority

Peter Called Himself – Your Fellow Elder

“Shepherd the flock of God . . .”

**The
Priority**

- **serve as overseers**
- **serve willingly**
- **not for gain**
- **not as lords**
- **but as examples . . .**

1 Peter 5:2

The Elders' Priority – Word & Teaching



Let the elders who . . .

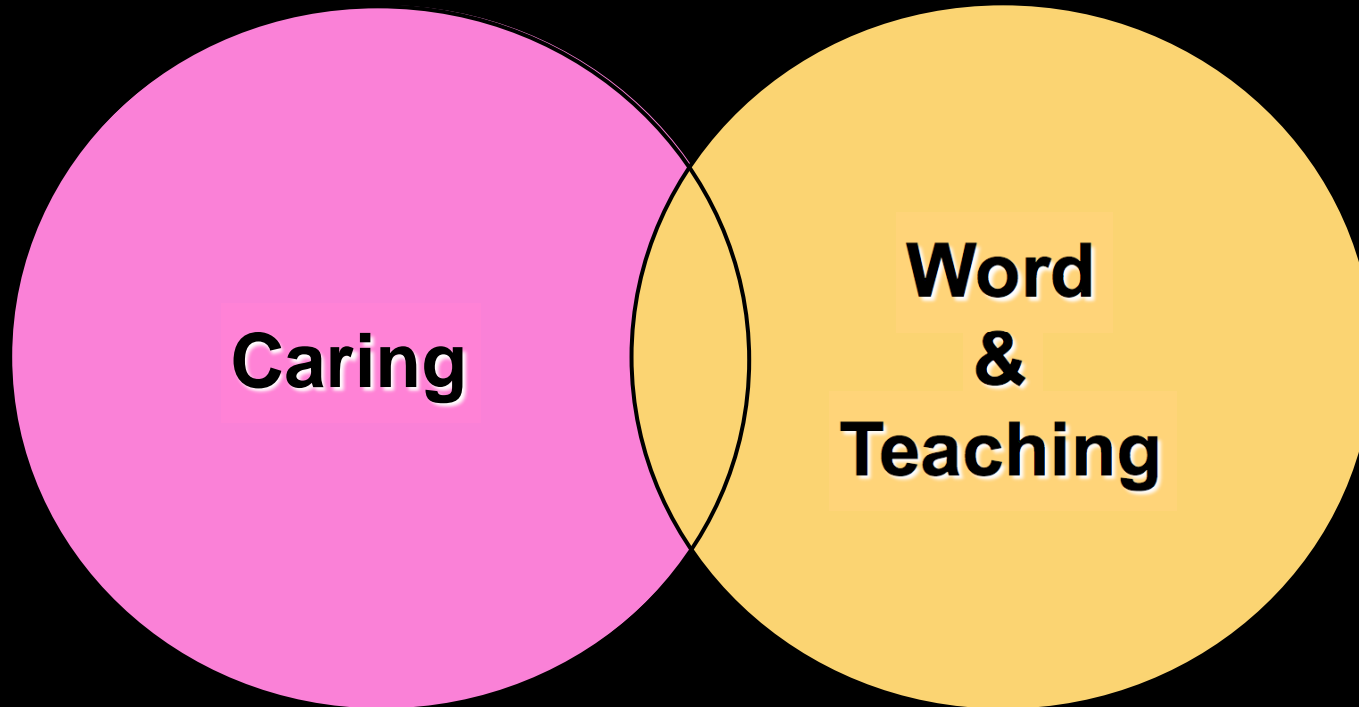
**lead well
be considered worthy of double
honor,
especially those who**

**work hard at the word and
teaching.**

**The
Priority**

1 Timothy 5:17

Shepherding – Elder's Main Responsibility



... Oversight is 2nd priority ...

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd

Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Peter answered

Jesus replied

1st I love you

2nd I love you

3rd I love you

Feed My sheep

Shepherd My sheep

Feed My sheep

**The
Priority**

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**The
Priority**



How Shall We Respond?

How Shall We Respond?



1. Start by praying for guidance in selecting our elders.

- **Help in identifying – men who love Jesus**
- **Help in identifying – men who will shepherd**

2. Now let's be personal . . .

- **Do you love Jesus?**
- **If so, how are you serving Him?**
- **If your service is about who does it, then repent.**