Seven Questions About Elders

Various Passages
“Jesus and the Board of Disciples”

by Rolph Potts

"Blessed are the donors, for they shall receive a handsome commemorative wristwatch."
Jesus Is Looking For Undershepherds
How To Select Elders

Acts 6:1-4 - illustrates the process

. . . congregation used qualifications

. . . congregation recommended men

. . . apostles appointed

1 Tim. 5:22
Summary: How To Select Elders

   - 1 Tim. 5:22
   - Titus 1:5

2. Elders make final appointment - Acts 14:23
How Many Elders?

- Scripture never states how many
  - Acts 14:23
  - Titus 1:5

- Must Be Qualified
  - 1 Tim. 3:1-7
  - Titus 1:5-9
Biblical Principle: How Many Elders?

1 Tim. 5:22 – the warning

... do not lay hands hastily

... do not share in the sins of others

... keep yourself pure
How Long Shall An Elder Serve?

• Biblical Answer – As long as he is qualified
  - 1 Tim. 3:1-7
  - Titus 1:5-9

• Paul Echoes The Principle
  - 1 Cor. 9:20-22
What Happens If An Elder Is Disqualified?

1 Timothy 5:10-22 . . . the guiding principle

• Accept only a legitimate accusation
Examples of Discipline In Scripture

- Jeremiah 28
- 1 Corinthians 5
- Gal. 2:11-21
- 2 Tim. 2:16-18
Elder Disqualification Guidelines

- Two or three witnesses required - 1 Tim. 5:19
- A warning is required - 1 Tim. 5:20
- Elder must be rebuked - 1 Tim. 5:21
- Objectively do this without bias - 1 Tim. 5:22
What About The Elder Himself?

1 Timothy 3:1

... he must desire to serve!
Congregation’s Responsibility?

Highly loved by the congregation - 1 Thess. 5:12-13

Some worthy of double honor - 1 Tim. 5:17
The Elder’s Reward?

1 Peter 5:4 - reward from God

The Chief Shepherd will give an elder the unfading crown of glory!
How Shall We Respond?

1. Pursue holiness

2. Dwell in the Word of God richly

3. Be Spirit Filled . . . . submit to the Spirit

4. Pray for guidance in selecting elders