

Shepherding the Flock

*"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."
(Acts 20:28)*



Why Study Elders

A study of Biblical eldership is an important study in the life of any church. Elders serve as the shepherds of the Lord's church serving to lead, protect, instruct, nurture, and love the sheep. Many churches and even more individuals within the churches have never undertaken a thorough study of this subject. While these short discussion lessons are not meant to be a groundbreaking contribution to the study of this subject, it is my hope that they will help guide each student to Biblical truth and and better understanding the role these men fill within the church.

During the course of these lessons we will ask and attempt to answer the following questions:

- 1) What are Elders in the Church (and why do we need them)?
- 2) What are the responsibilities of Elders?
- 3) What are the responsibilities of the congregation to the Elders?
- 4) What are the qualifications to serve as an Elder in the church?
- 5) How should Elders lead (leadership style)?
- 6) What is the relationship between evangelists and elders?
- 7) How do we choose Elders?

Additionally, we will look at each word in the New Testament that relates to this office (such as elder, shepherd, bishop, pastor, etc.).

Within this study will be an examination of the following Scriptures that relate to elders: Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:1-40; 20:17-38; 21:17-26; 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 3:10; 4:14; 5:17-25; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; James 5:13-15; Hebrews 13:17.

In preparation for this study, please do the following:

- 1) Pray daily for the church of which you are a part, pray for the elders of the church if you have them, and pray for yourself as you seek to understand the eldership more fully.
- 2) Read and re-read the Scriptures listed above over the coming weeks.