

WELCOME

Please mute your devices to avoid a disruption during worship.

Where Elders Come From

Jacob Hudgins
(Abridged)

Elders fill the pages of the New Testament. After establishing new congregations, Paul and Barnabas returned to “appoint elders in every church” (Acts 14:23). Paul exhorted the Ephesian elders in Acts 20. Peter instructed elders in 1 Peter 5. Timothy and Titus received qualifications for appointing them, and Christians were taught how to relate to their overseers. These men were entrusted with tremendous responsibility. So where do elders come from?

#1 They are taught. Paul left Titus in Crete to “set in order the things that are lacking” and “appoint elders in every city” (Titus 1:5). Among their qualifications is “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught” (Titus 1:9). Elders do not appear overnight. They are shaped through years of learning and applying Scripture. They need more than familiarity with the Bible; they must know it deeply so they can “exhort and convict those who contradict.” They must be able to wield “the sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17) against error. Kindness, personality, and worldly wisdom cannot replace a thorough knowledge of God’s word. Elders are taught.

#2 They are examples. Hebrews 13:7 says, “Remember those who rule over you...whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.” Because they have embraced God’s teaching, their faith becomes evident in daily life. Their conduct demonstrates steady devotion to Christ, making them worthy of imitation. Peter likewise commands elders to shepherd “not as being lords...but being examples to the flock” (1 Pet. 5:3). Elders are not simply older men who desire authority. They are men whose consistent lives naturally inspire others to follow Christ.

#3 They have disciplined themselves. Many elder qualifications involve self-control: “temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior...not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, not quarrelsome, not covetous” (1 Tim. 3:2-3). Elders are men who have spent years battling personal weaknesses and learning mastery over their desires. They are not flawless, but neither are they pretending to be something they are not. They have demonstrated control of their speech, temper, and appetites over time. Because they have faithfully governed themselves, the congregation can trust them when greater responsibilities are placed in their hands.

#4 They have proven themselves as leaders. God does not entrust His church to inexperienced men. An elder must be “one who rules his own house well...for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?” (1 Tim. 3:4-5). Leadership begins at home. There a man learns to lead with love, patience, and example rather than force. Having cared faithfully for his family, he is prepared to “watch out for your souls, as those who must give account” (Heb. 13:17). God does not desire proud, self-willed leaders like Rehoboam. He desires men who have already demonstrated faithful leadership where it matters most.

Where do elders come from? They come from men who have spent years putting the Lord first. They have learned His word, practiced it faithfully, disciplined themselves, and proven their leadership. These qualities were not developed for a season to impress others; they became their way of life.

Our responsibility is not merely to submit to faithful elders but to help raise future ones. Young men should be encouraged early to pursue this noble work. They must be grounded in Scripture, cultivate genuine faith, confront personal weaknesses, and develop disciplined lives. Their homes should become training grounds for godly leadership.

Elders come from within the Lord’s church—where else could they come from? The question is whether we are preparing ourselves and encouraging the next generation to become the shepherds God’s people will need.

Announcements:

Prayer List

- Ed Coats: From the Eastridge congregation has been very ill and frail, which has prevented him from attending worship with his fellow brethren.
- Sandra's Aunt: Experiencing severe gastrointestinal and kidney issues. She was also recently diagnosed with cancer. Sandra is a friend of Belle and Devan and has recently been worshipping with us.
- Rob Canon: Suffers from long-term health issues.
- Brian Escobar: Being treated for lung cancer.
- Mike Grimes: Working to regain his strength. He continues to improve.

Traveling/Away

- David Johnson Sr.: Traveling to help his daughter move.
- The Hammonds: Visiting family in Seattle.
- The Mackeys: Went back to Colorado to stay for a few weeks.
- Nico Azaroff: Deployed with his unit. Due to return toward the end of the year.

Upcoming Events

- Our website is being updated. The changes should be finished soon.

Morning Worship Assignments

Opening Prayer- Tom Reynolds
Scripture Reading- Conner Wright
Sermon- Joe Wright
Closing Prayer- Addison Wright
Song Leader- Bradley Wright

Evening Worship Assignments

Song Leader- Addison Wright
Closing Prayer- Earl Shumaker

Key Scripture:

“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.” - 1 Timothy 3:1



ABOUT US

We seek to follow the teachings of the Bible, which is the only source to find doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News, which is, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has presented himself as the perfect sacrifice by willingly going to the cross to take away our sins.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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