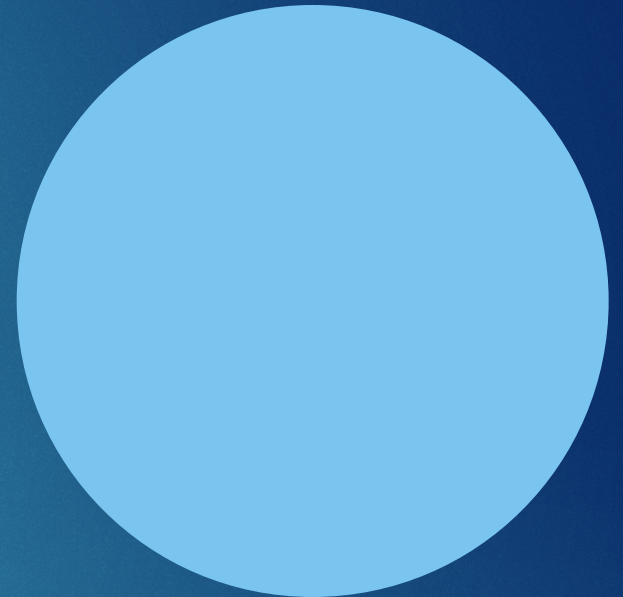


Who are the 'elders' of the local church?

IN THIS STUDY, WE WILL LOOK SPECIFICALLY AT
“WHO ARE ‘ELDERS’?”

Hierarchy of Authority



How does the N.T. identify Elders?

▶ **Shepherds/Pastors**

- ▶ Ephesians 4:11 – 12
- ▶ 1 Peter 5:1 – 2
- ▶ Acts 20:28

▶ **Overseers/Bishops**

- ▶ Acts 20:28

▶ **Presbytery**


- ▶ 1 Timothy 4:14

▶ **Elders**

- ▶ Acts 20:17
- ▶ Acts 14:23




What are the Qualifications of an Elder?



1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:1 – 7 (ESV)



5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Titus 1:5 – 9 (ESV)

The Qualifications of an Elder

- ▶ Desires to be an Elder (I Timothy 3:1)
- ▶ Above Reproach (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Husband of one wife (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Manages His own Household, with Obedient Children/Believing & Obedient Children (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Sober-minded (I Timothy 3:2)
- ▶ Self-controlled/Disciplined (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Not Arrogant (Titus 1:7)
- ▶ Not a Drunkard (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Respectable/Upright/Holy (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Hospitable (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Able to teach/ Able to Give Instruction in Sound Doctrine/ Holding Firmly to the Word/Able to Rebuke those who Teach False Doctrine (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Not a Drunkard (I Timothy 3:3)
- ▶ Not Violent (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Gentle (I Timothy 3:3)
- ▶ Not Quarrelsome/Not Quick-tempered (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Not a Lover of Money/Not Greedy (I Timothy & Titus)
- ▶ Not recent convert (I Timothy 3:6)
- ▶ A Lover of Good (Titus 1:8)
- ▶ Respected by Non-Christians (I Timothy 3:7)



Who is the Shepherd of
your soul?