



# Welcome to Worship

Sanford church  
of Christ

# Elders

*God's Faithful Shepherds*

**THE  
ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE LOCAL  
CONGREGATION**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to  
obey everything I have commanded you. And surely  
I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**Matthew 28:19-20**

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

Acts 4:32 ESV

## Acts 6:1 – 3 (ESV)

*1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

*Acts 8:1 (ESV) (1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.)*

*Acts 8:4 (ESV) (4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.)*

# **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ELDERSHIPS**

## Acts 11:29 – 30 (ESV)

*29 So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.*

*30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.*

## Acts 14:23

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

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—

**Titus 1:5–9**

ESV

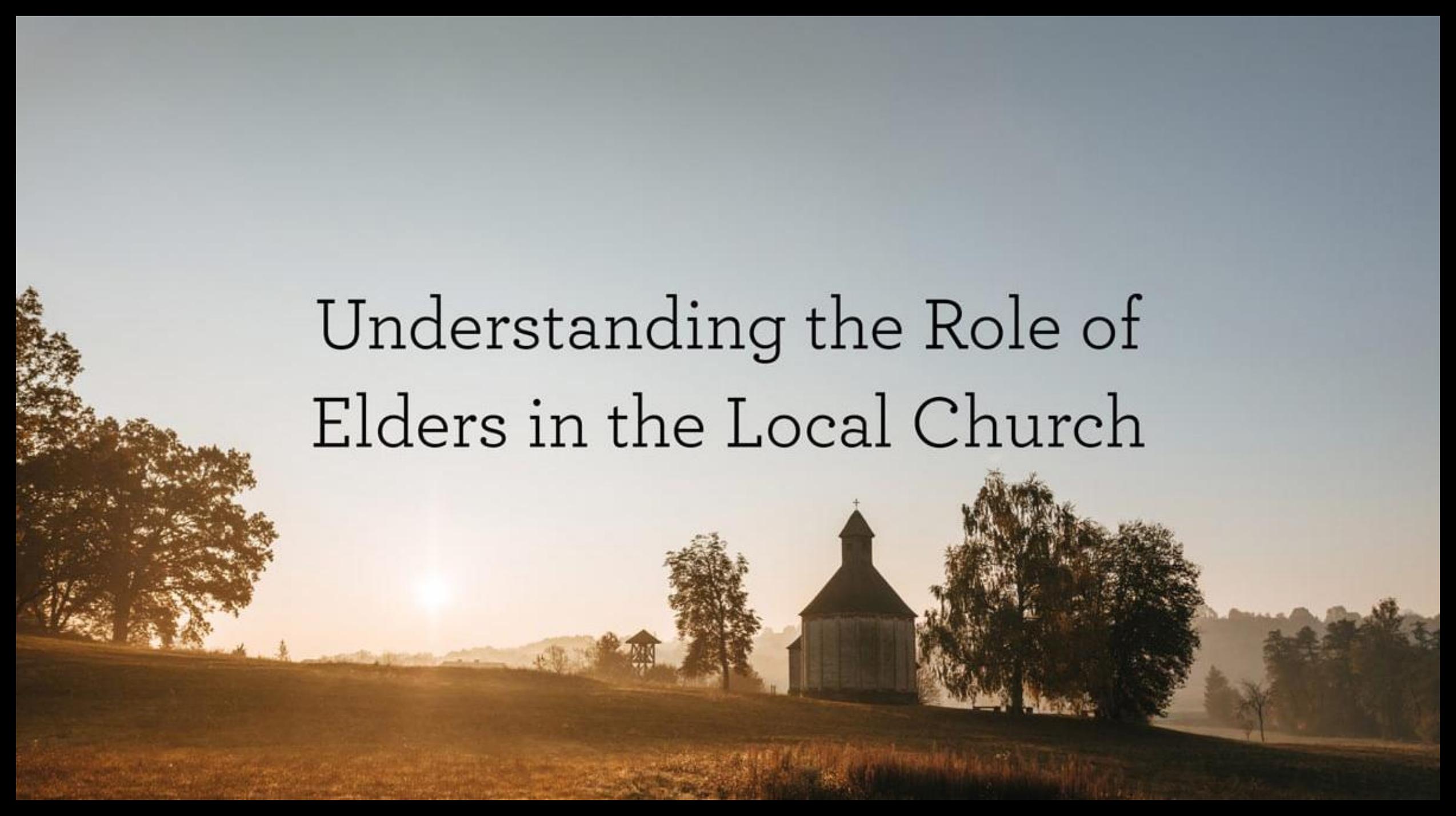
# Philippians 1:1 (ESV)

*1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons*

# Acts 20:17 (ESV)

*17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.*

# Understanding the Role of Elders in the Local Church



## 1 Peter 5:1 – 4 (ESV)

*1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

**Three Terms For "Elder"**

<b>Greek:</b>	Presbuteros	Episkopos	Poimen
			
<b>Latin:</b>	Presbyter	Bishop	Pastor
			
<b>English:</b>	Elder	Overseer	Shepherd

These terms are used interchangeably to refer to one office.

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God...”

~ Acts 20:28

## Elder Qualifications

I Timothy 3:1-7		Titus 1:5-9	
<b>Vs. 1</b>	Aspires to be an elder	<b>Vs. 6</b>	Above reproach
	Desires the work of an elder		Husband of one wife
<b>Vs. 2</b>	Above reproach		Children who believe
	Husband of one wife		Children avoid worthless activities
	Temperate		Children are not rebellious
	Prudent	<b>Vs. 7</b>	An above reproach steward
	Respectable		Not self-willed
	Hospitable		Not quick-tempered
	Able to teach		Not addicted to wine
<b>Vs. 3</b>	Not addicted to wine		Not Pugnacious
	Not pugnacious		Not fond of sordid gain
	Gentle	<b>Vs. 8</b>	Hospitable
	Peaceable		Loving what is good
	Free from the love of money		Sensible
<b>Vs. 4</b>	Manages His Household Well		Just
	Children are under control		Devout
	Dignified Parenting		Self-controlled
<b>Vs. 6</b>	Not a new convert	<b>Vs. 9</b>	Holding fast sound doctrine
<b>Vs. 7</b>	Good reputation outside the church		Able to exhort people in the truth
			Able to refute people who contradict

# Ephesians 4:11 – 13 (ESV)

*11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

# How are elders to equip the saints?

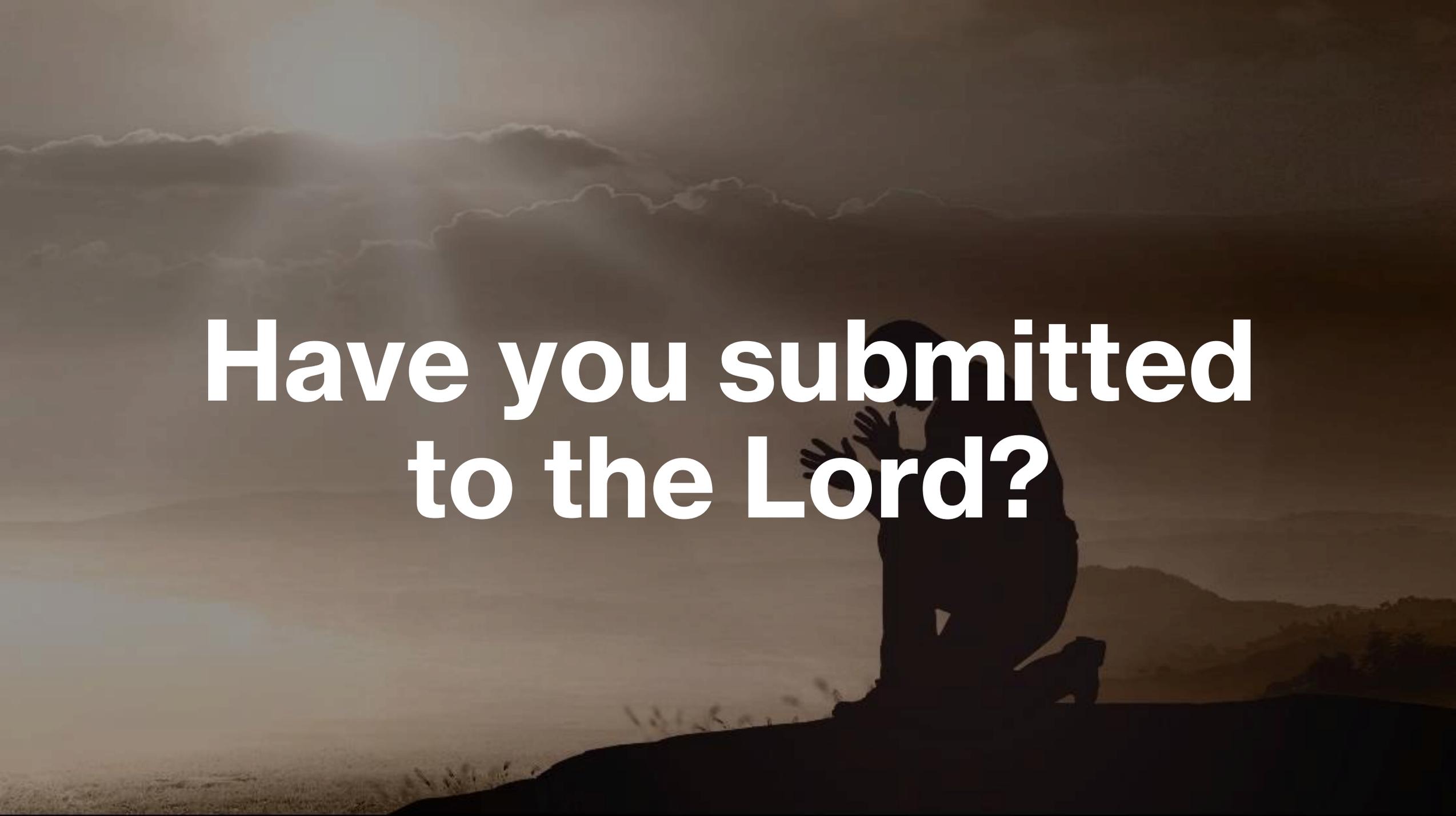


- They protect the flock from wolves. (Acts 20:28)
- They protect the flock against a spirit of division. (Titus 1:10 – 11)
- They provide for nourishment for the congregation. (Jeremiah 3:15)
- They lead the congregation by example. (1 Peter 5:3)

# What should our response be?

- Read God's Word for how it defines and instructs concerning elders!
- Please pray for God's blessings!
- Prepare yourself to serve under the oversight of our eldership! (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5 – 7)



A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a hillside, with their hands raised. The background is a soft, hazy sunset or sunrise over a landscape with rolling hills and a body of water. The overall tone is warm and contemplative.

**Have you submitted  
to the Lord?**