

# SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE

## A BIBLICAL CASE FOR ELDERS

### 3 propositions:

1. Every church has \_\_\_\_\_.

The real question is ...

#### 1 Peter 5:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>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: <sup>2</sup>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; <sup>3</sup>not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ defines the type of leaders a church should have.

Competent, qualified, godly men ...

#### Titus 1:5-9 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>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— <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup>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.

See also: **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

3. Elders are the God-ordained \_\_\_\_\_ of His people.

The pattern of leadership in the New Testament church ...

#### Acts 14:21-23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup>When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. <sup>23</sup>And when **they had appointed elders for them in every church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

#### Titus 1:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>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 ...

### 3 reasons:

1. Elders provide \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the pastor.
2. Elders promote the proper role of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Elders help produce a \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 responses:

Choose \_\_\_\_\_ men that you will \_\_\_\_\_!

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup>and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Allow them to \_\_\_\_\_ the church with the authority of the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Acts 6:4 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

See also: **1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:9, 1 Thess. 5:12**

#### Hebrews 13:17-18 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. <sup>18</sup>Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

#### Acts 20:28-30 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Share \_\_\_\_\_ with them for the health and life of our church.

In the early church, many important decisions - such as selecting leaders (Acts 1:23; 6:2-3), sending missionaries (Acts 13:3; 14:27), determining theological positions (Acts 15:22), deciding church discipline (Matt. 18:17), and performing excommunication (1 Cor. 5:2) were the responsibilities of the local congregation. In addition, the church body is responsible for *what* is taught (Acts 17:11), and for *who* teaches (Gal. 1:8).