

## Handout for Church Leadership Study

**Read:** Phil 1:1 & Acts 15:23

Q1: What groups are represented in these verses as part of a local assembly?

Bible references which include direct teaching regarding elders	
1 Timothy 3:1-7	Qualifications of an overseer
1 Timothy 5:17-22	Instructions about elders (accusations, etc)
Titus 1:5-9	Qualifications of an elder
1 Peter 5:1-4	Attitude and motives elders should have

Listed below are five words used in the NT which refer to leadership roles within a local assembly:

Common Word	“Old” Word	Greek Word	# Times Used	Strongs #
Elder	Presbyter	Presbuteros	67	G4245
Overseer	Bishop	Episkopos	10	G1985
Shepherd	Pastor	Poimen	29	G4165
Steward	-	Oikonomos	13	G3623
Minister/Servant	Deacon	Diakoneo	65 (Deacon 2)	G1247
Assembly/Congregation	Church	Ekklesia	100+	G1577

**Referencing the following verses, fill out the box below (by putting a check in each applicable box)**

### Acts 20:17 & 28

Vs 17, “And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders<sup>4245</sup> of the church.”

Vs 28, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,<sup>1985</sup> to feed<sup>4165</sup> the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

### Titus 1:5 & 7

Vs 5, “For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders<sup>4245</sup> in every city, as I had appointed thee:”

Vs 7, “For a bishop<sup>1985</sup> must be blameless, as the steward<sup>3623</sup> of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre.”

### 1 Peter 5:1-2

“The elders<sup>4245</sup> which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed<sup>4165</sup> the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight<sup>1983</sup> thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

	Elder or Presbyter (Presbuteros)	Overseer or bishop (Episkope)	Shepherd or pastor (Poimen)	Steward (Oikonomo)
<b>Acts 20:17,28</b>				
<b>Tit 1:5,7</b>				
<b>1 Pet 5:1,2</b>				

## For Reference, here are “In-Depth” definitions:

### Elder – [Presbyter]

Comparative of *presbus* (*elderly*); *older*; as noun, a *senior*; specifically an Israelite *Sanhedrist* (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian “presbyter”: - elder (-est), old.

### Overseer - [Bishop]

a *superintendent*, that is, Christian officer in general charge of a (or the) church (literally or figuratively): - bishop, overseer.

### Shepherd – [Pastor]

G4166: Of uncertain affinity; a *shepherd* (literally or figuratively): - shepherd, pastor.

G4165: From G4166; to *tend* as a shepherd (or figuratively *supervisor*): - feed (cattle), rule - feed, shepherd, rule

### Steward

A *house distributor* (that is, *manager*), or *overseer*, that is, an employee in that capacity; by extension a *fiscal agent* (*treasurer*); figuratively a *preacher* (of the Gospel): - chamberlain, governor, steward.

## Or... to Summarize:

1. **Elder** indicates an older man with wisdom that can only come from age and experience.
2. **Overseer** indicates a position of top authority, one who is in charge and makes all final Decisions for the local congregation.
3. **Shepherd** is a metaphoric term that indicates the men are to show love, care, dedication and self sacrifice for the members as sheep. This also includes protection.
4. **Steward** indicates a man who can be trusted with great treasures. This could include financial resources, but also encompasses the spiritual welfare of the flock.

Q2: Based on the passages listed above (And also Acts 14:23, 1 Tim 3:1, & 1 Tim 6:22), how do you think new elders should be chosen today?

**Read:** 1 Peter 5:1-4

Q3: What attitude(s) should an elder have?

**Read:**

1 Thess 5:12-13

Heb 13:17

Q4: Since submitting to authorities within a local assembly is Biblical, how much (and what type of) authority do you think an elder has over the "flock"?

Q5: To make this more practical, what should our attitudes and behaviors be towards the leadership?

**Re-Read:**

Titus 1:5  
Acts 14:23

Q6: What do we learn about plurality of leadership from these verses?

*Another office mentioned in the New Testament is that of "deacon". Deacon is a translation from the Greek word "diakoneo," a word used 67 times in the New Testament but only translated as "deacon" in two places. All other uses of the word are translated as "Minister," or "Servant." The idea is that "deacon" is a fancy name for one who has an office of officially "serving" or "ministering" within a local congregation.*

**Deacons in the Bible:**

Phil 1:1 [Mentioned in Greeting]  
1 Tim 3:8-13 [Qualifications of, excluding "able to teach"]  
Acts 6:1-5 ["It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God in order to wait on tables"]

**Read:** Eph 4:11-12

Q7: Do you think these verses are referring to "offices," "gifts," or "strengths"?

Q8: How does the picture that is emerging of leadership within the local church compare with the models we commonly see in churches today?

**Look over the Duties of Elders**

Q10: Do any of the duties surprise you? Any other comments?

**Look over the Qualifications of Elders & Deacons (next page)**

Q12: Which ones apply to all believers? Check them.

Extra Credit: Try thinking of references to back up each specific trait.

**Duties of Elders**

Shepherd the flock, setting an example for all	1 Peter 5:1-3
Feed and care for the church	Acts 20:28, 1 Thess 5:12
Teach and preach sound doctrine	1 Tim 5:17, Titus 1:9, Acts 6:2
Rule and lead	1 Tim 5:17, Heb 13:17, 1 Thess 5:12, 1 Tim 3:2,4
Train and appoint other elders	Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; Titus 1:5
Refute and rebuke the insubordinate	Titus 1:9, 13
Serve clothed in Christ-like humility	1 Peter 5:3-5
Watchfulness with regard to false teachers and warning the people concerning them	Acts 20:29-31
Receiving monetary assistance and meeting together to resolve doctrinal disputes	Acts 15
Called for in times of need for prayer	James 5:14

**Qualifications of Elders      Apply to us?      What verse(s)?**

Above reproach		
Able to teach		2 Tim 3:2, "The Lord's servant must be...able to teach"
Blameless		Eph 1:4, "He chose us to be...blameless in his sight"
Children must believe / not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient		
Children must obey with proper respect		
Disciplined		
Gentle		
Holy		
Hospitable		
Husband of but one wife		
Loves what is good		
Must have a good reputation with outsiders		
Must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught		
Must manage is family well		
Not a lover of money		
Not be a recent convert		
Not given to drunkenness		
Not overbearing		
Not pursuing dishonest gain		
Not quarrelsome		
Not quick-tempered		
Not violent		
Respectable		
Self-controlled		
Temperate		
Upright		

**Qualifications of Deacons      Apply to us?      What verse(s)?**

Worthy of Respect		
Sincere		
Full of the Spirit & Wisdom		
Keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience		
Not indulging in much wine		
Not pursuing dishonest gain		
First be tested		

“Most of the qualifications of elders and overseers are basic moral, ethical qualities that are elsewhere urged upon believers in general. While many qualifications are equivalent, those specifically enjoined upon elders/overseers seem to stress self-control in interpersonal relationships, personal holiness and love for what is good, self-discipline, hospitality, and in three citations, ability to teach.” – What is a Pastor by Keith Schooley