**ELDERS AND THE CHURCH**

**Purpose of Elders is based on the purpose for the Church—Edification** of the body in love **Ephesians 4:11-16**

**Spiritual maturity** of all members **v.13-14**

**Godly behavior** of all members **Titus 2:11-13**

**Good deeds** by all members to others **v.14** (ministering, service in **Eph. 4:12**)

Includes **preaching** the gospel by all to all **Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 10:5-10**

Includes collective teaching **Philippians 4:15-18**

Supporting preachers **2 Corinthians 11:8**

Edification in **assemblies 1 Cor. 14:27, Hebrews 10:24-25**

Discipline **1 Cor. 5**

Aid **2 Cor. 8:4**

**Edification** resources are:

1. The **word of God Acts 20:32**
2. **Fellowship** with Christians **Hebrews 3:13**
3. Effective church **leadership 1 Peter 5:2-3**

**Application** of resources

**1 & 2. Assembling** together **Heb. 10:24-25, Acts 2:42**

**2. Socializing** together **Acts 2:46**

**1, 2, & 3. Working** together **Eph. 4:16**

Elders **oversee** to **know** the **spiritual needs** of **each member** and **how** to meet them **Hebrews 13:7,17**

Elders **oversee provision** of these resources:

teaching **v.7; Ephesians 4:11-12**

examples **v.7; 1 Peter 5:3**

guidelines **v.17; Titus 1:9**

**OBEY THOSE WHO RULE OVER YOU
Hebrews 13:7,17**

**How** do elders rule over the church?

*“No authority…just examples”*

1.How about “obey” and “rule” in **Heb. 13:17**?

2.How are examples appointed? **Acts 14:23**

3. “example” in **1 Pet. 5:3** = “pattern” in **Heb. 8:5**

*“Benevolent unilateral decision-makers”*

1. **1 Peter 5:3** not lording it over those that God put in their care

“Lording it over” = imposing one’s will on the unwilling

**Acts 19:16** evil spirit “overcame” sons of Sceva,

 **Psalm 19:13,** sin “have dominion”

**Numbers 32:29** invading army “subdued” the land

2.This use of authority **not** in the kingdom of God **Matt. 20:25-28; Titus 1:7**

**3.Authority of Elders – 1 Peter 5:2-3**

Not under compulsion but willingly **2 Cor. 8:8**

Not for money

Not for power

With zeal!

Lead by doing

**Authority of Elders in the Kingdom**

**Same** work in **nature** as all saints **Heb. 12:14**

Same goals of character to reach **1 Tim. 3:1-13**

Examples **1 Thess. 1:7**

**Different** in **degree** & **trust** of brethren in spiritual judgment

**Church commits** to **yield** to elders in **spiritual** matters of **judgment**

Preacher does not receive this deference

Essence of elders’ authority

Elders have **no authority** in judgments of **nonspiritual** matters

Church is involved in church decisions with deference to expert (building, finances, etc.)

Elders to be spiritual experts

**Acts 11:30** is a **spiritual** matter (see **2 Cor. 8:4**)

**Authority in** the **word Matt. 8:5-13** (matters of faith) not matters of judgment

Authority of all teachers not just elders

All saints (& elders) to submit to this authority

**The Church’s Responsibility to Elders - 1 Timothy 5:17-22**

Honor with **support** **v. 17-18, v.3**

How widows were honored by church **v.9**

**Verse 18** quote of **Deut. 25:4** applied to preacher **support** in **1 Cor. 9:9**

Full-time elders **v.17**

Don’t receive an accusation without 2 or 3 witnesses **v.19-20**

**Not** a **special** rule…same for all **Matt. 18:15-17**

Reminder to remember normal rules

Appoint men that are truly above reproach: known, respected, and trusted

Defer to (**respect**) their spiritual judgment

If unwilling to defer, don’t lie

Don’t give them grief **Heb. 13:17**

**Obey** their spiritual judgment **Heb. 13:17**

Honor with **esteem** in love **1 Thess. 5:13**

Get along with each other **1 Thess. 5:13**

**Preacher’s Responsibility to Elders**

Evangelist was to appoint elders **Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23**

Initiated by the Holy Spirit **Acts 6:3-4, 13:1-3**

Church obeyed **Acts 6:5, 14:26**

Appointed by apostles **Acts 6:3,6**

Elders and preachers are fellow workers **Ephesians 4:11**

Elders are teachers with added benefit of congregational deference

Publicly rebuke elders that sin **1 Tim. 5:20**

**What Should Brethren Expect from Their Elders**

**Sound teaching** **Heb. 13:7; Titus 1:9; Eph. 4:11-16**

**Wise spiritual counsel** **1 Thess. 5:13-14**

Warn the unruly

Comfort the faint-hearted

Support the weak

Be patient with all

**Firm leadership in discipline** **1 Thess. 5:12-14**

Warn the unruly **v.14**

Discipline the impenitent unruly **2 Thess. 3:6-15**

Mark them **v.14**

Withdraw from them **v.6,14**

Authority of the church **Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:4-5**

**Pastoral oversight 1 Pet. 5:2**

Appreciation for each soul **Heb. 13:17**

Time **James 5:14-16**

Presence **v.14**

Availability **v.14**

Rescue any one that leaves **Luke 15:4-7**

Watch for spiritual danger to any sheep **Acts 20:28-31** within or without

**A good example 1 Pet. 5:3**

**Heb. 13:7** whose faith follow

**Titus 2:7-8** a pattern of good works

Integrity (incorruptibility)

Reverence

**1 Tim. 2:2** honesty

**1 Tim. 3:4** respect

Cannot be condemned

Having nothing evil to say of you

**1 Timothy 4:12** how to be a good example:

in word

in conduct

in love

in spirit

in faith

in purity