

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP/CHURCH GOVERNMENT

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1 TIMOTHY 5:17-20 NKJV (for deeper study read Ap Advice/Biblical Headship by Dr. John Polis) *available in the bookstore.*

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Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." ¹⁹Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

²⁰Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

NUMBER 1. The apostles needed help serving peoples **physical needs.**

A. The 12 apostles were the first leaders.

ACTS 6:1-4

Now in those days, when *the number* of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ²Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

B. Determined the qualifications and appointed deacons. (not self appointed)

NUMBER 2. The apostles need help with the **spiritual needs.**

A. Determined qualifications. (Quality leadership).

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-8

This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence ⁵(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶not a ^{le}novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. ⁷Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who

are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. ⁸ Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

- B. Appointed elders (not new to faith) in every church.

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.

NUMBER 3. Duties of these spiritual leaders called "elders."

- A. Training meeting in Ephesus.

ACTS 20:17

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

- B. Elders, Overseers (bishop) Shepherds.

ACTS 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- C. Elders are to Shepherd and Model. Willingly, not greedily or dictatorially.

1 PETER 5:1-5

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. ⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

- D. Great reward for this spiritual service from Chief Shepherd.

- E. Work of elders can be demanding. (someone qualified to call) Available, Prayerful, Faithful, Confidential, Restorational.

JAMES 5:14-16

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he

has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, ¹⁷ fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

NUMBER 4. Categories of Elders.

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-20

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- A. Ruling or governing Elders: Direction, Correction, Nutrition.
- B. Shepherding Elders. Care (observed condition) Gather (scattered) Strengthen (weary, tired of walking)

MATTHEW 9:36-39

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were ^{1a} weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

- C. Teaching Elders: comprised of five gifts to fully equip saints for ministry. (Feed)

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the ^{1a} edifying of the body of Christ,