

June 15, 2025



CHURCH

LEADERSHIP

MATTERS

Week Three:
Responsibilities
of Elders

Central Church of Christ
Dalton, GA



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responsibilities of elders

week three

When someone is given responsibility, it means they have been entrusted with something valuable. It means others are counting on them to be dependable, trustworthy, and take ownership of something that truly matters. Responsibility carries weight.

In church leadership, responsibility is not about having control; it is about creating a culture where the members are healthy, united, and focused on Jesus.

Elders are entrusted with the “spiritual care” of a local congregation. They take the lead in helping people grow in their faith, and offering wisdom during times of conflict or crisis. At times, elders must make difficult decisions that are unpopular but faithfully reflect God’s will.

Leaders are those others look to for direction. Elders set the spiritual tone and direction of the entire church family. Elders carry a sacred trust. Their role is not just about managing tasks, but also shepherding souls.

As a church, we must:

- **Pray for wisdom** – for those who currently serve and those considering the call.
- **Support with grace** – leadership is often heavy and sacrificial.
- **Look inward** – think about how we can grow in these same qualities ourselves.

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Sermon Outline

This lesson looks at three passages in the New Testament that highlight some of the responsibilities of elders.

#1 Protect the Flock (Acts 20:28-32)

- Protect sheep from predators (20:28-31). Elders must be watchful over their own lives & those entrusted to them.
- Lead sheep down the right path (20:32-35). Elders point people to the word & in the right direction.
- Show sheep you're only human (20:36-38). Elders lead with compassion & are connected to the flock.

#2 Strengthen The Weak (James 5:14-20)

- Be Accessible (5:14). Elders are called to step into people's pain with care and compassion.
- Be Prayerful (5:14-16). Elders are called to hear the confessions of the weak and pray for restoration.
- Be Hopeful (5:19-20). Elders are to pursue the lost and work to rescue those who've drifted from the truth.

#3 Equip the Saints (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- Equip for ministry (4:12). Elders work together to help members grow by preparing them to serve.
- Promote Unity (4:1-3, 13). Elders work together to help the church stay centered on scripture and ground in love.
- Promote Growth (4:15-16). Elders work together to help each member of the body do its work to help it thrive.

bible class info

Qualities Overview (Part One)

See Supplemental Workbook

Qualities Overview

These qualities have to do with the way we “think or feel about someone or something” (attitude) and our “competency in fulfilling required tasks” (abilities).

Attitude (little to no fluctuation)

NOT SELF-WILLED (Titus 1:7): stubborn, arrogant, power-hungry.

Do I act in the best interest of others or do I act in my own best interests (Philippians 2:1-4)?

***NOT GREEDY FOR MONEY** (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7): lover of money or money-hungry.

Am I honest with my business transactions (1 Timothy 6:9-19)?

NOT COVETOUS (1 Timothy 3:3): not greedy (only KJV & NKJV).

Am I generous (Galatians 6:6-10)?

Abilities (some fluctuation)

NOT A NOVICE (1 Timothy 3:6): Not newly planted in the faith, but one who has been tested over time.

Have I been a Christian for a significant period of time? (Hebrews 5:12-14)

HOLDING FAST THE FAITHFUL WORD (Titus 1:9): Devoted to the Bible.

Do I have a strong understanding of and appreciation for the Bible? (2 Timothy 3:14-4:5)

ABLE TO TEACH (1 Timothy 3:2): Skillful in teaching, whether public or private.

Will I help people understand the Bible? (2 Timothy 2:24–25)

ABLE TO EXHORT (Titus 1:9): To come to the aid of another.

Do I have the ability to encourage those who are weak and in need? (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

ABLE TO CONVICT (Titus 1:9): One who exposes and corrects someone in error.

Do I have the boldness, humility, and knowledge to correct those in error? (Matthew 18:15)

ABLE TO RULE HOUSE WELL (1 Timothy 3:4): One who directs, cares for, and gives aid.

Do I provide for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of my family? (1 Timothy 5:8)



scripture reading

Acts 20:28–32

“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. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

* The New King James Version. Thomas Nelson, 1982.