

**Sermon Title:** Church Leadership: Elders

**Sermon Series:** Church Leadership

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 5:1-5

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Barnhart



### **Psalm 96:1–3 ESV**

1 Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

### **Hebrews 10:24–25 ESV**

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

### **Why does the church need elders?**

#### **WHAT Elders Do**

### **1 Peter 5:1–5 ESV**

1 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: 2 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; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

## **1. SHEPHERD - lead, teach, care.**

### **1 Timothy 3:2 ESV**

2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

## **2. OVERSEE**

***Represent the mind of Christ to provide guidance for the church.***

***Equip the church for ministry.***

### **Ephesians 4:11–16 ESV**

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the

truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

## **Elders must shepherd & oversee in the grace of Christ.**

### **1 Peter 5:2–3 ESV**

2 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; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

### **1 Timothy 3:1–7 ESV**

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

## **Able to teach – 1 Timothy 5:17**

### **WHO Can Be an Elder?**

#### **1. Does gender matter?**

The EPC believes that the issue of the ordination of women is not an essential of the faith. Since people of good faith who equally love the Lord and hold to the infallibility of Scripture differ on this issue, and since uniformity of view and practice is not essential to the existence of the visible church, the EPC has chosen to leave this decision to the Spirit-guided consciences of local churches concerning the ordination of women as Ruling Elders and Deacons, and to the presbyteries concerning the ordination of women as Teaching Elders. (Book of Government, 9-2)

#### **1 Timothy 2:12–14 ESV**

12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

What about women serving in leadership in the Bible?

**2. What about the church staff?**

**3. What do we look for in prospective elders?**

**4. Our Process**

***Who We Are 101 – What we value***

***Who We Are 201 – What we teach***

***Who We Are 301 – What we do***

***Elders: Trust Jesus as your Chief Shepherd to encourage & equip you to shepherd & oversee the congregation.***

***Members of the congregation: Trust Jesus as you look to your elders for spiritual leadership.***

**Trust Jesus that how He structures the church is best for all of us.**