

# **New Testament Leadership Terminology**

## **(1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1)**

### **#1 – Elder – The Greek word “Presbuteros”.**

- This word means, “Elder” or “Elderly”.
  - So, this speaks of the spiritual elders or general leaders.
- The requirements are given in Titus 1:5-6.

### **#2 – Bishop – The Greek word “Episcopos”.**

- This word means, “Overseer” or “Superintendent”.
- The requirements are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:7-9.

### **This words for “elder” & “bishop are used almost interchangeably.**

- Both “elder” & “bishop” are used in Acts 20:17,28 & 1 Peter 5:1-2.
  - That makes distinctions between elders & bishops difficult.
- It is my opinion, the “elders” are the general spiritual oversight with the pastor (or pastoral staff) being the “bishops”.
  - So, the elders (presbuteros) are to oversee the church as well as ensuring the church has healthy pastors (episcopos).

### **#3 – Deacon – The Greek word “Diakonos”.**

- The word means, “Minister” or “Servant”.
- The requirements for bishops are given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 & Acts 6:3.
- And, all elders and bishops should have the attitude of a deacon.