



# THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH ELDERS

# PAUL ESTABLISHED ELDERS IN ALL CHURCHES

## Acts 14:23

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting...

Also: Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-2







1. KEY BIBLE PASSAGES  
RELATING TO CHURCH  
ELDERS

## Titus 1:5-9 (1 Timothy 3:5-7 similar)

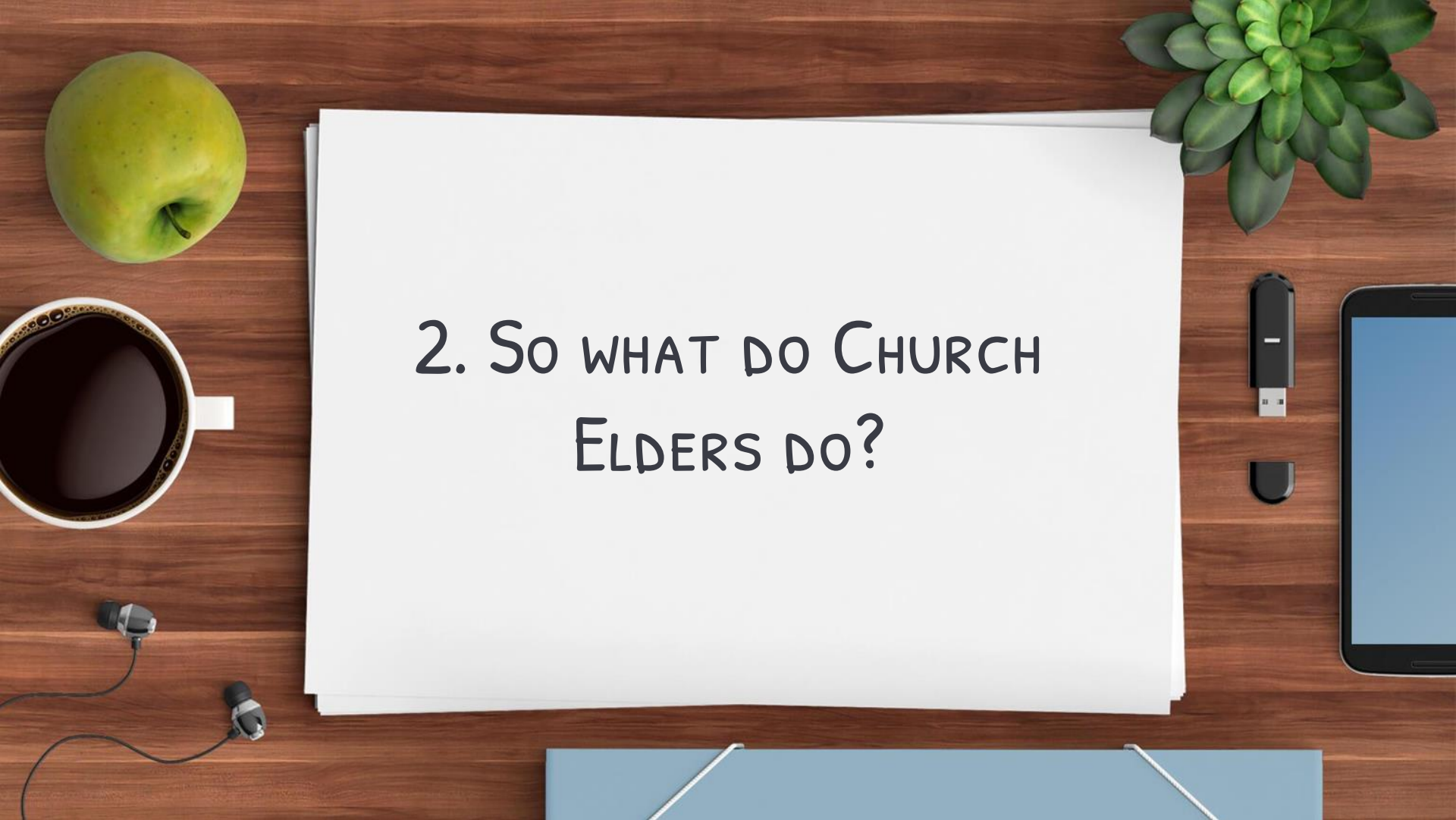
<sup>5</sup> The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and **appoint elders in every town**, as I directed you. <sup>6</sup> An elder must be **blameless**, **faithful to his wife**, a man whose **children believe** and are **not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient**. <sup>7</sup> Since an overseer **manages God's household**, he must be **blameless**—not overbearing, not **quick-tempered**, not **given to drunkenness**, not **violent**, not **pursuing dishonest gain**. <sup>8</sup> Rather, he must be **hospitable**, one who **loves what is good**, who is **self-controlled**, **upright**, **holy** and **disciplined**. <sup>9</sup> He must **hold firmly to the trustworthy message** as it has been taught, so that he can **encourage others by sound doctrine** and **refute those who oppose it**.

## 1 Peter 5:1-3

<sup>1</sup> To the **elders among you**, I appeal as a **fellow elder** and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

<sup>2</sup> **Be shepherds of God's flock** that is under your care, **watching over them**—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; **not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;**

<sup>3</sup> **not lording it over those entrusted to you**, but being **examples to the flock.**

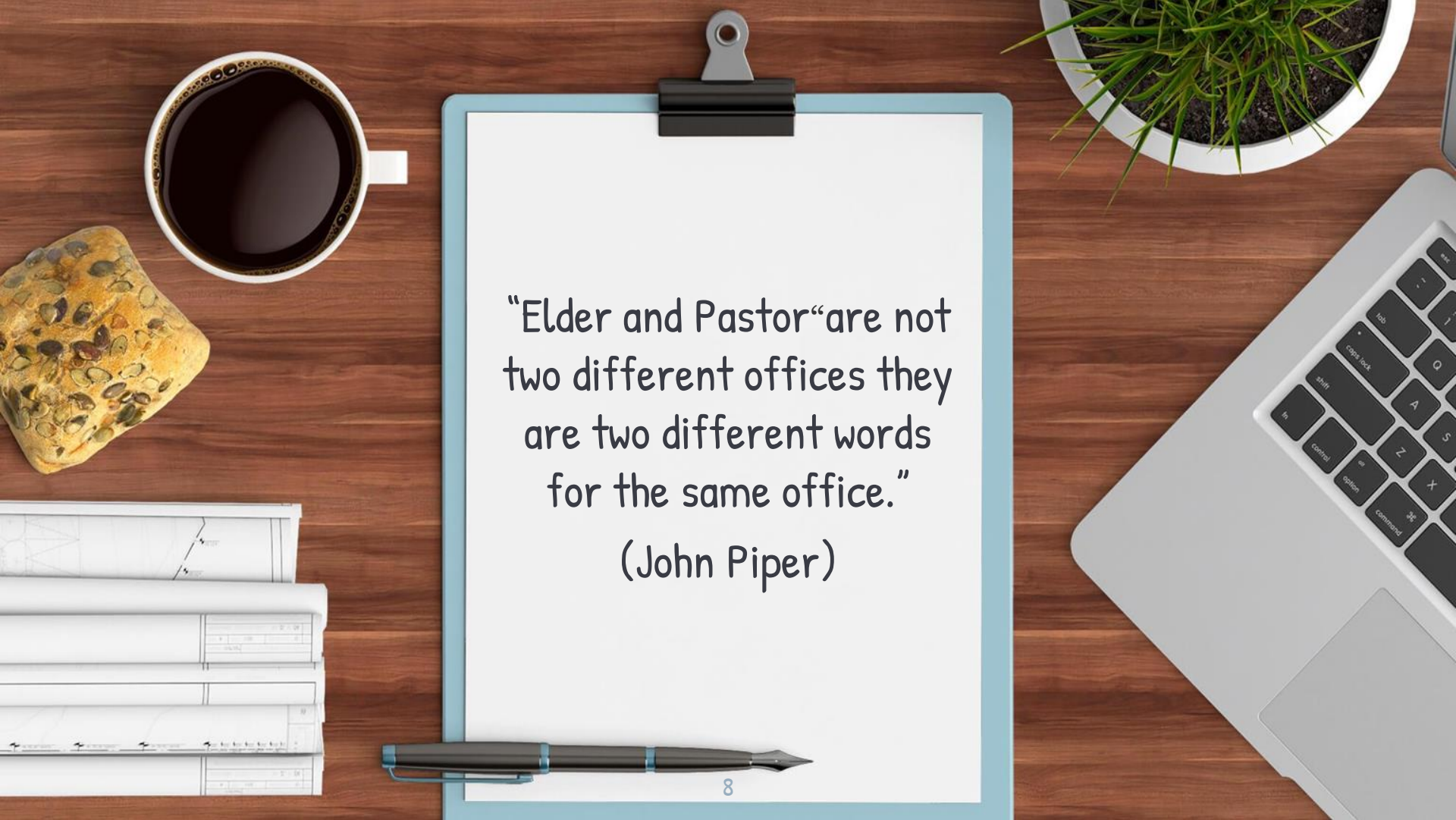


2. SO WHAT DO CHURCH  
ELDERS DO?



## CHURCH ELDERS

- > Shepherd/provide spiritual leadership in the church (*Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3*)
- > Manage the key aspects of church life (*1 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:7; Peter 5:2-4*)
- > Teach and protect from false teaching (*1 Tim 3:2; 5:17; Eph 4:11; Titus 1:9; Acts 20:31*)
- > Visit and pray for sick members (*James 5:14*)



“Elder and Pastor“are not  
two different offices they  
are two different words  
for the same office.”

(John Piper)

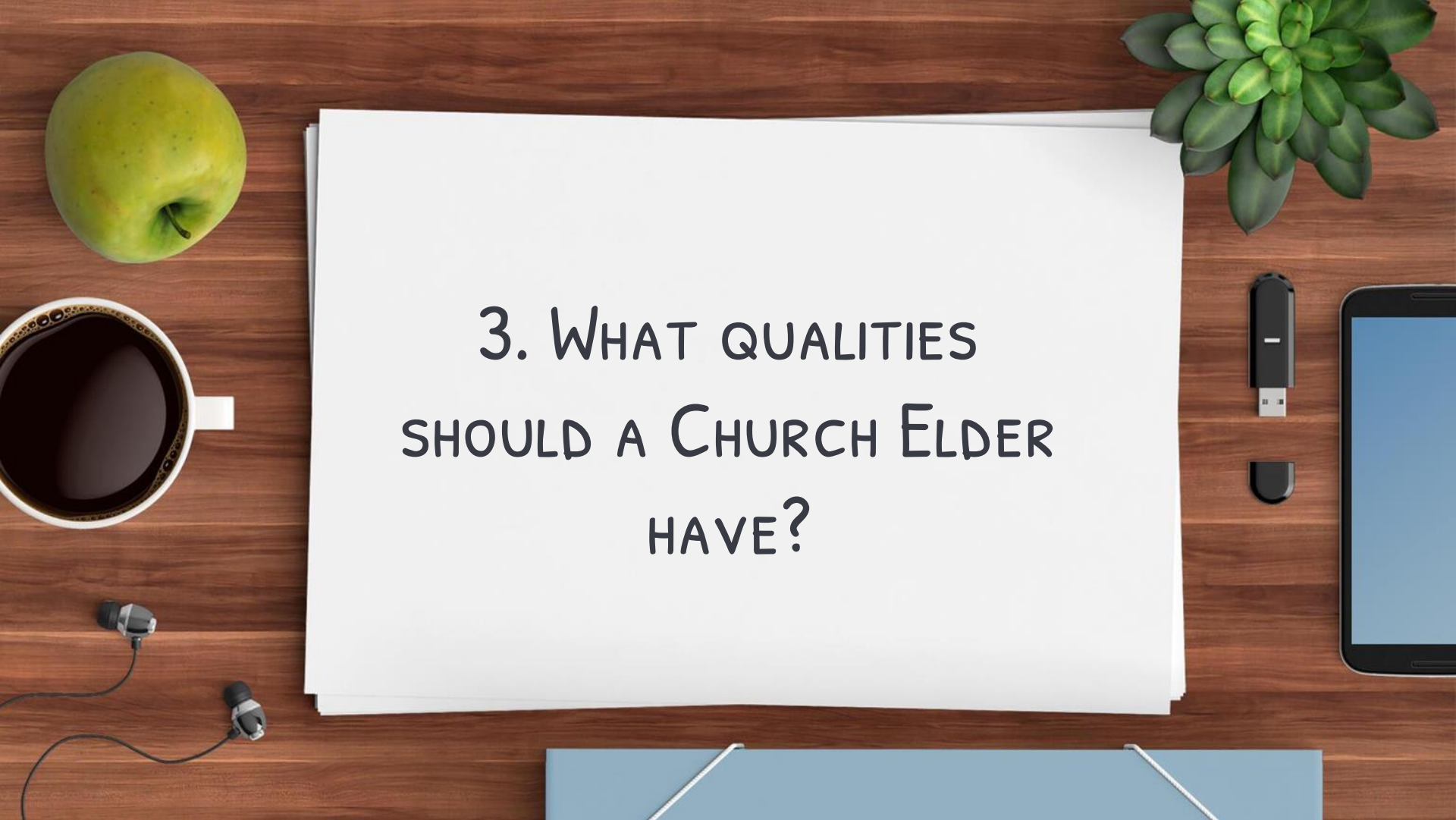


## ELDER = BISHOP

“Another term used for elders in the NT is a Greek word episkopos (Acts 20:28) which is variously translated as overseer or bishop. But this term also seems quite clearly to be another term for “elders” in the New Testament.”

(Wayne Grudem)





3. WHAT QUALITIES  
SHOULD A CHURCH ELDER  
HAVE?

## QUALITIES OF AN ELDER (1 TIM 3 & TITUS 1)

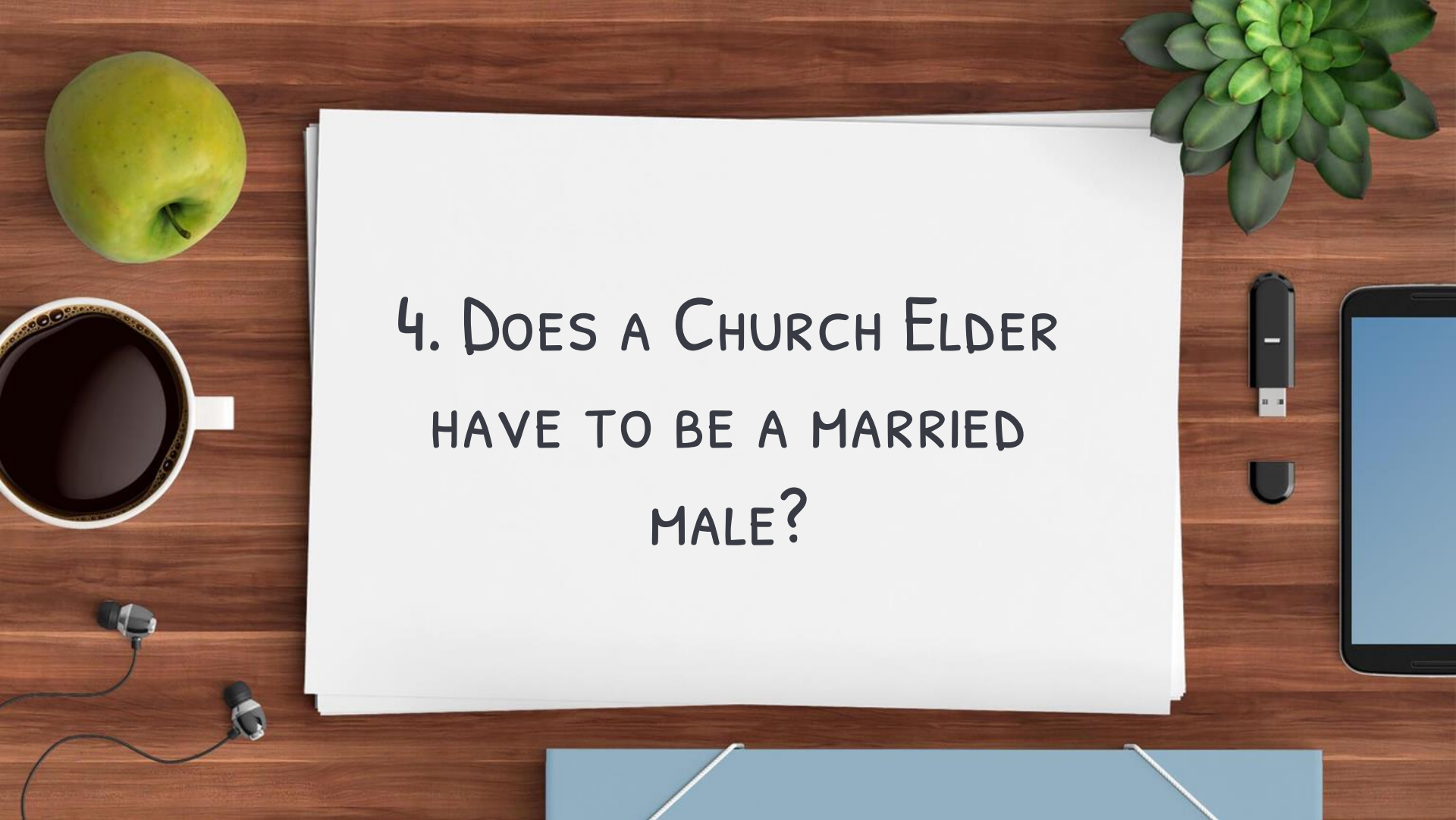
### Must be:

- > Above reproach/blameless
- > Gentle & self-controlled
- > Respectable & hospitable
- > Able to lead & discipline
- > Able to teach & refute false doctrine
- > Lover of all that is good

### Must Not be

- > A polygamist or adulterer
- > Violent or quick-tempered
- > Overbearing
- > Given to drunkenness
- > A recent convert
- > A lover of money or one who pursues dishonest gain





4. DOES A CHURCH ELDER  
HAVE TO BE A MARRIED  
MALE?

## Not at Wesley Mission

- > Different life and cultural context
- > As long as the elder can meet the spiritual and character requirements