



“The Church That Guards the Gospel”
WHO’S IN CHARGE OF THE CHURCH?
1 Timothy 3:1

*Christ exercises headship over His church through
spiritually mature elders who shepherd His flock.*

**1. THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT IS THAT
JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH.**

- **“Elders”** – *presbyteros* - looks at the man himself.
- **“Overseers”** – *episkopos* - looks at the nature of the work.
- **“Shepherd”** – *poimēn* - looks at the work as shepherd and sheep.
- **“Over”** - *prohistemi* - means to lead or have charge over.
- **“Leaders”** - *hegeomai* - means to lead or rule.

**2. CHRIST EXERCISES HIS HEADSHIP THROUGH SPIRITUALLY
MATURE ELDERS.**

A. Elders should be men, not women.

B. Elders should be spiritually mature men.

C. Elders should be a plurality.

D. Elders are selected by God and recognized by the church.

3. THE ELDERS' TASK IS TO LEAD BY SHEPHERDING GOD'S FLOCK.

A. Elders should provide leadership by example and servanthood.

B. Elders should shepherd God's flock.

C. Some elders should concentrate on preaching and teaching.

D. Some elders should concentrate on administration and oversight.

The answer to "who is in charge of the church?" is, Jesus Christ is! He exercises His headship in the local church through elders who are spiritually mature men, selected by God and recognized by the church, who through example and servant-hood shepherd His flock.
