

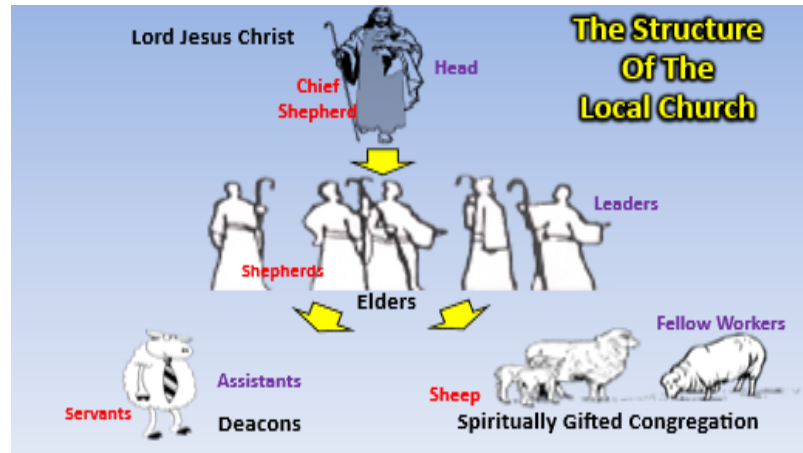
THE ROLE & QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

A. The ONE TRUE HEAD of the CHURCH.

1. WHO is the One True Head of the Church? _____ (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 1:18-23; Col. 1:15-18)
2. Three CONCLUSIONS:
 - a. No man — whether he is a pastor, a priest, or a pope — is the Head of the Church. _____ is the Church's _____ Head.
 - b. Jesus Christ as the Head, through the _____ via His _____, should direct all the affairs of His Church!
 - c. Like with all divine institutions, God uses means to accomplish ends and designates _____ to serve under His Headship for the oversight, direction & benefit of the divine institution.

B. The NAMES For Spiritual Leaders in the Church.

1. WHAT Are They?
 - a. _____. (Ephesians 4:11)
 - b. _____. (Acts 14:20-23)
 - c. _____. (1 Timothy 3:1-2a)
2. Some FURTHER QUESTIONS?
 - a. How do these terms / people relate? (Acts 20:17, 28, 1 Peter 5:1-2)
 - b. How are the elders related to the apostles? (Eph. 2:20, 4:11-12) to deacons? (Phil. 1:1)
 - c. What perspective & posture is needed among sp. leaders? They must view themselves _____ to other believers *positionally* in Christ (Gal. 3:28), _____ other believers as a leader *functionally* in the local church (1 Thess. 5:12), & as _____ of Jesus Christ to others *mentally* in their hearts. (Rom. 1:1)



C. The BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS For Spiritual Leadership. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

1. Some General Observations:

- The qualifications apply to _____ only, (1 Timothy 2:9-15)
- The qualifications are a _____, not a maybe. (1 Timothy 3:2)
- The qualifications stress _____, not giftedness.
- The qualifications over-riding requirement is _____, not perfection. (1 Tim. 3:2a)
- The qualifications evaluate where the elder's life is _____, not where he may have been in the past.

2. The Specific Qualifications of an Elder. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

- As to his *inner compulsion*: _____ ... "if a man desires..."
- As to his *walk*: _____ ... "blameless"
- As to his *marriage*: _____ ... "the husband of one wife"
- As to his *thinking*: CLEAR / BALANCED ... "temperate"
- As to his *judgment*: SOUND / PRINCIPLED ... "sober-minded"
- As to his *orderliness*: WORTHY OF RESPECT / ORDERLY... "of good behavior"
- As to his *benevolence to others*: HOSPITABLE... "given to hospitality"
- As to his *ability with God's Word*: _____ ... "able to teach"
- As to his *self-control*: NOT ADDICTED TO WINE... "not given to wine"
- As to his *disposition*: NOT VIOLENT... "not violent"
- As to his *motivation*: NOT POWER-HUNGRY... "not greedy for money"
- As to his *treatment of others*: GRACIOUS WITH OTHERS ... "gentle"
- As to his *getting along with others*: NOT QUARRELSOME... "not quarrelsome"
- As to his *finances*: FREE FROM LOVE OF MONEY & THINGS ... "not covetous"

- o. As to his *home*: _____ ... “one who rules his own house well”
- p. As to his *spiritual growth*: _____ ... “not a novice”
- q. As to his *testimony to others*: _____ ... “a good testimony among those who are outside.”
- What about the elder’s wife?
 - What about the number of elders & ideally the value of a plurality of qualified elders?
 - What about a “lead elder” or senior pastor?
 - What about the appointment / confirmation process of elders?