

“What Are Elders and What Are They to Do?”

Titus 1:5-9

Introduction

- I. By definition, what are elders?
- II. What are the duties of elders?
- III. How should a congregation behave toward elders?

Discussion

- I. By definition, what are elders?
 - A. First of all, elders are just men (1 Tim. 3:1).
 - B. There are different Greek words that are used to describe an elder.
 1. *presbuteros*-one who older, mature, and experienced [English words presbyter and elder] (Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1).
 2. *episcopos*-one who oversees/superintends [English words bishop and overseer] (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1; Titus 1:7; Phil. 1:1; 1 Pet. 5:2) .
 3. *poimen*-one who tends and feeds [English words pastor and shepherd] (Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:2).
- II. What are the duties of elders?
 - A. “Take heed unto themselves” (Acts 20:28).
 - B. Oversee the local congregation of which they are members (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Pet. 5:2).
 - C. “Feed the flock” (Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:2).
 - D. “Rule well” (Rom. 12:5-8; 1 Tim. 5:17).
 - E. Admonish the congregation (1 Thess. 5:12-13).
 - F. Be good stewards of what is God's (Titus 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:3).
 - G. Watch for the souls of the congregation (Heb. 13:17).
- III. How should a congregation behave toward elders?
 - A. Know them and esteem them highly (1 Thess. 5:12-13).
 - B. Obey them and submit (Heb. 13:17).
 - C. Partake of the “food” that they provide (1 Pet. 5:1-3).
 - D. Follow their good examples (1 Pet. 5:1-3).
 - E. Give those that “rule well”, “double honour” (1 Tim. 5:17-18).
 - F. Do not listen to gossip about them (1 Tim. 5:19).
 - G. Rebuke them publicly, if necessary (1 Tim. 5:20).
 - H. Utilize them (James 5:14).

Conclusion

- I. Congregations without elders are sheep without shepherds.
- II. Every congregation should do it's part to make sure that elders are appointed.