

“Why Do We Need Elders?”

1 Tim. 3:1-7

Introduction

- I. In the process of time, elderships change for various reasons.
- II. With that knowledge, it is important for us to realize the need for men to be ready to serve.

Discussion

- I. We need elders because that is God's will (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 3:1-7).
 - A. God is not “the author of confusion” (1 Cor. 14:33).
 - B. There needs to be order in a congregation (Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13).
 - C. Without elders, you have sheep without shepherds (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- II. We need elders because of the need for spiritual nourishment (1 Pet. 5:2, 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).
 1. Spiritual malnutrition is a serious issue for many congregations.
 2. Congregations will never be as strong as they can be without the proper “diet” (2 Tim. 4:2).
- III. We need elders because of the threat of error, false teachers, and disobedient brethren (Titus 1:9).
 1. Elders are to make sure that wolves do not devour the flock (Acts 20:28-31).
 2. Elders are to “watch” for our souls, which may mean that discipline is necessary (Heb. 13:17).
- IV. If the need is so great, why are that not elders in every congregation as God desires?
 - A. Some congregations have unrealistic expectations of men (cf. “blameless” 1 Tim. 3:2; Gal. 2:11)
 - B. Some congregations are afraid to appoint men that should not be in the eldership (the qualifications are to met, but sometimes even elders sin [Acts 20:28-31]).
 - C. Lack of desire (some place worldly things above spiritual).
 - D. Feelings of inadequacy (Rom. 3:23).

Conclusion

- I. For the church to be as God would have it to be, elders should oversee congregations when such is possible.
- II. If there are obstacles to obtaining such, then the congregation should be active in preparing men to serve.