

ELDERS IN THE CHURCH

LESSON 1

THE WORK OF AN ELDER

I PETER 5:1-4

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT
ELDERS?**

THREE LESSONS

Work of an elder

Qualifications of elders

Our duty to elders

ORGANIZATION OF CHURCH

UNIVERSAL

All Christians all over the world

Only one officer – Christ is head of church

COLOSSIANS 1:18

**And he is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning and the firstborn from
among the dead, so that in everything he
might have the supremacy.**

LOCAL CONGREGATION

**Autonomous
Independent of each other
Cooperate, assist and encourage**

ORGANIZATION - PHILIPPIANS 1:1

**Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi,
together with the overseers and deacons:**

ACTS 14:23

**Not scripturally organized until have them
Plurality equal rank**

WORDS USED

ELDER – PRESBYTER

Experience, wisdom, maturity, age

BISHOP – OVERSEER

Seeing things done correctly

PASTOR – SHEPHERD

Work of shepherd

WORK OF AN ELDER

TAKE HEED TO SELF

FEED THE CHURCH ACTS 20:28

**Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the
flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made
you overseers, to feed the church of God, which
he hath purchased with his own blood.**

NEED FOOD TO LIVE

KNOW WHAT BEING TAUGHT

KNOW WORD AND KNOW PEOPLE

TEND THE FLOCK

FEED

PROTECT THE FLOCK ACTS 20:29-31

I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

GUIDE

OVERSIGHT

1 PETER 5:2

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

ALL ACTIVITIES DIRECTED BY ELDERS

DELEGATE NOT ABDICATE

RULE WELL

DECIDE DIRECTION CHURCH SHOULD GO

CONSULT TOGETHER

LISTEN TO CONGREGATION

WATCH FOR SOULS – HEBREWS 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

EXAMPLE HEBREWS 13:7

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
