

The office of an Elder

- **The Origin of the Office**
- **The Elders from the days of Moses.**
- **Ex.18. Numbers 11.**
- Established to carry the load of the
- ministry together with Moses.

Practical & Spiritual implications

- **The weight of the people was too much for one man to handle.**
- **The Lord was laying out a pattern.**
- **He had a Future planned for His church.**

The Function of the Fivefold Ministries.

- To Establish
- To set in order
- To Teach
- To equip the church to do the work of Ministry
- **Ephesians 4:11-13**

The role of the Apostle, Prophet

- To Establish new works.
- To set into office Elders &
- Deacons
- Discerning what goes on in
- Heaven, bringing it down to
- earth
- **Acts 14:23**

The role of the Teacher.

- Instructing the people in the supernatural, the miracles, healing, the power of God.
- To train up not just followers, but disciples
- **Acts 11:25-26, Acts 18:11**

The role of the Pastor.

- **To nurture, to take care of the sheep.**
- **Create strong family values**
- **To build strong relationships**

The role of the Evangelist.

- **Bring in the lost and the hurting.**
- **Train the church to bring in those**
- **that are lost**
- **Loves the supernatural**

Elders were always plural in numbers

- **All New testament churches had a plurality of Elders**
- **The Apostles, Prophet set the elders in office**

Elders had a specific function and responsibility.

- **It is not just a title, but an active position that requires time and sacrifice.**
- **An Elder carries the anointing for the office he holds**
- **An Elder should be respected and honored in the local church**

Role of the Elder

- **They were leaders in war.**
- **They were judges in dispute.**
- **They were men of good advice and counsel.**
- **They represented and maintained the community of believers.**
- **They were the authorities of various cities.**

As Interpreter Dictionary of the Bible states:

“ As parents wield authority in a family, so elders wield authority in the life a clan, tribe or local community”

Laying a Strong
Foundation.

NIV Ephesians 3:10

His intent was that now,
through the church, the
manifold wisdom of God
should be made known to
the rulers and authorities
in the heavenly realms,

The importance of placing Elders in their office

- **The Lord had order in mind.**
- **Order in the home.**
- **Order in the church.**
- **Order in our city, our nation**

The Business Model

- Church leadership structure organized after the business model of the word.
- Creates, strife, authority syndrome, competition.
- Ignoring the Biblical order, creates disorder.
- When there is disorder there is chaos and confusion, there is no proper flow there is no peace

Words that describe the Elder

- **Elder – “Presbuteros”**
- A person of age.
- A mature person of wisdom and
- experience.
- **It describes the person**

Words that describe the Elder

- Overseer - “Episkopos”
- An Elder giving oversight.
- **Describes the function**

Words that describe the Elder

- Shepherd - “Poimen”
- “Poimaino” Feed
- An Elder as a shepherd.
- **Describes the manner in which he accomplishes his ministry**

NIV Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you ***overseers. (Episkopos)***
Be shepherds - Feeders - (Poimaino) of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood

NKJ 1 Peter 5:2 Shepherd -
(Feed), the flock of God which
is among you, serving as
overseers, Episkopeo, not by
compulsion but willingly, not for
dishonest gain but eagerly;

Moral Qualifications

· **1 Tim 3, Titus 1**

- **1. Must be blameless. (Not Perfect)**
- **2. Must be temperate. (Exhibiting self control)**
- **3. Must be of good behavior. (being orderly and modest)**

- **4. Not given to much wine.
(Moderation)**
- **5. Must not be a striker.
(A quick temperate man has not yet
given all his rights up to The Lord).**
- 6. Not greedy for money.**

- **6. Money is no longer the motivating factor in his life.**
- **7. Not contentious. Quarrelsome or argumentative.**
- **8. Not covetous – learning to be content in whatever state God has place him.**

- **9. Not to be self-willed, not dominated
by self pleasing attitude's**
- **10. Lover of good, loves what is
good and pleasant.**
- **Christ-like hatred for evil.**

Domestic qualifications.

- **The Elder must not only have himself under control, but he must have His own home in harmony.**
- **Ruling it effectively.**

Must be the husband of one wife.

- **Must be a loyal husband living in a pure marriage relationship, without adulterous relationships, or attitudes.**
- **One wife at the time, it does not mean that he can not marry another woman if the first one dies.**

- **An Elder should not be the initiator of the divorce proceedings**
- **Different then being the victim of a divorce, initiated by the spouse with no plans to work it out through counseling**

- **An elder is to be Hospitable. (Titus 1:3)**
- **A lover of strangers.**
- **An elder is to rule his own house well**
- **Having his own children live in submission**
- **Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly behavior..**

Spiritual qualifications

- **Ability to teach the word.**
- **Must not be a young convert.**
- **Spiritual is more important than physical age.**

- **An elder must be just.**
- **Must be willing to fulfill his duties and obligation toward God and man.**
- **An elder must be Holy.**
- **Being righteous and upright opposed to what is unrighteous and polluted.**

- **An elder must hold fast the faithful word.**
- **He must be personally established in the truth, not blown about by winds of doctrine.**

NLT 1 Timothy 4:16

Keep a close watch on yourself and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right, and God will save you and those who hear you.

NLT Titus 1:9 He must have a strong and steadfast belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with right teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

• **Fruit of mature eldership.**

- **Peace. Not the absence of conflict.**
- **Joy. Comes from doing God's will.**
- **Healthy growth. Result of modeling.**
- **Fulfillment. All needs are met**

**The Power and
influence of a church
that has learned to
flow in order**

Power of Unity.

- **NLT Ephesians 4:3**
- Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.

NKJ Ephesians 4:13

**till we all come to the unity of
the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of
God, to a perfect man, to the
measure of the stature of the
fullness of Christ;**

MSG. Eph 4:13 until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.