



## ***Shepherds and Sheep: Faithfulness in Church Leadership***

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### **1. What are “Elders”, “Overseers”, and “Pastors”?**

Acts 14:23

And when they had appointed **elders** for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 20:17,28

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church to come to him.... Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers, to care for** the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

1Tim 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be **above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.** He must **manage his own household well**, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must **not be a recent convert**, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be **well thought of by outsiders**, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

## 2. Leadership and Faithful Shepherds: *The Role of Elders*

### A. **Teach** the Flock

Titus 1:9

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1Tim 5:17

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

### B. **Protect** the Flock

Acts 20:28-31

**Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

### C. **Lead** the Flock

1Pe 5:1-4

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, **exercising oversight**, not under compulsion, but **willingly**, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but **eagerly**; not domineering over those in your charge, but **being examples** to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Eph 4:11-12

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ

### D. **Heal** the Flock

Jam 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

### 3. Leadership and Faithful Sheep: *The Role of Orchard Family Members*

A. **Pray** for the Elders

B. **Talk** to the Elders

C. **Listen** to the Elders

Heb13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.