

A Study About Elders

(Part 1)

I. Introduction:

A. Terms that synonymously apply to elders...

1. Elders ["...among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies (or churches)" (Strong's # 4245) (**Acts 20:17**).
2. Bishop ["...overship, office, charge, the office of an elder" (Strong's # 1984)] (**I Timothy 3:1**).
3. Pastors ["shepherd" (Strong's # 4166) (**Ephesians 4:11**).
4. Presbytery ["... body of elders" (Strong's # 4244)] (**I Timothy 4:14**).
5. Overseers ["...elder or overseer of the church" (Strong's # 1985)] (**Acts 20:28**).
6. Steward ["a house-distributor (i.e. manager), or overseer..." (Strong's # 3623)] (**Titus 1:7**).

B. We are going to be talking about men whom are appointed to a position of authority (**Hebrews 13:7**).

1. What does one's desires tell us (**Proverbs 11:23**)?
2. What happens when men abuse their authority (**Micah 3:1-12**)?

II. Body: In This Lesson, We Will Discuss The Desire Of A Man To Take On The Role Of A Shepherd (**I Timothy 3:1**).

A. The desire to be an elder should not be for material gain (**I Peter 5:2**).

1. Elders are going to be trusted with the Lord's money (**Acts 11:27-30**).
2. Elders can be supported financially (**I Timothy 5:17-18**).
3. Thus, they will be in charge of the very funds they are authorized to be supported from. Hasn't that been a problem in the past (**John 12:1-6**)?
4. What often motivates false teachers (**II Peter 2:1-3**)?

B. The man desiring to serve as an elder should not be looking to exercise dominion over the saints (**I Peter 5:3**).

1. Authority should not be given to one who desires to lord over others (**Matthew 23:1-12, Mark 10:35-45, and II Corinthians 1:23-24**).
2. Does this man just want to have the preeminence (**III John 1:9-11**)?

C. If the desire is right, the work of an elder is good (**I Peter 5:1-2**)?

1. What is to be expected (**Acts 15:1-23 and Acts 20:28; 31**)?
2. In a context about spiritual gifts, we find the office of an elder is one set to the service of the saints (**Ephesians 4:7-13**; cf. **I Corinthians 13:8-13**).

III. Conclusion: For those men whom desire to serve as an elder, remember the weight of that office (**Hebrews 13:17**).