

Elders: An Overview

Four Lakes Church of Christ • Baxter T. Exum, evangelist • September 30, 2018

TERMINOLOGY

Acts 20:17-18, 28 *From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them... "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*

I. PRESBUTEROS = _____

1 Timothy 3:6 *...and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.*

SEE ALSO Acts 14:23; Acts 15:4ff; Acts 16:4; Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 5:17-19; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-5; 2 John 1; 3 John 1; Revelation 4:4 (and several other passages in Revelation)

II. EPISKOPOS = _____ or _____

English (preferred) Latinized (technically accurate, but perhaps misleading due to modern usage)

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

SEE ALSO 1 Peter 2:25; Acts 20:28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7

III. POIMEN = _____ or _____

English (preferred) Latinized (technically accurate, but perhaps misleading due to modern usage)

Acts 20:28-31 *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.*

SEE ALSO 1 Peter 5:1-5; Ephesians 4:11

QUALIFICATIONS

1 Timothy 3:1-7

¹ It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. ² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴ He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶ and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-9

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

		ELDERS	NOTES	ALL CHRISTIANS
1.	<i>"above reproach"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6,7		Philippians 2:15
2.	<i>"temperate"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2		Titus 2:2 (with reference to older men)
3.	<i>"prudent"</i> <i>"sensible"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8		Titus 2:2,5 (with reference to older men and young women)
4.	<i>"respectable"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2		1 Timothy 2:9 (with reference to a woman's "proper" clothing)
5.	<i>"hospitable"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8		1 Peter 4:9; Romans 12:13
6.	<i>"able to teach"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2		2 Timothy 2:24; 1 Peter 3:15
7.	<i>"not addicted to wine"</i>	1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7		Ephesians 5:18
8.	<i>"not pugnacious"</i>	1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7		Matthew 27:27-31; John 18:36
9.	<i>"gentle"</i>	1 Timothy 3:3		Galatians 5:23; James 3:17
10.	<i>"peaceable"</i>	1 Timothy 3:3		Titus 3:2

		ELDERS	NOTES	ALL CHRISTIANS
11.	<i>"free from the love of money"</i>	1 Timothy 3:3		1 Timothy 6:10
12.	<i>"not fond of sordid gain"</i>	Titus 1:7		1 Timothy 6:10
13.	<i>"not a new convert"</i>	1 Timothy 3:6		Hebrews 5:11-6:12
14.	<i>"a good reputation with those outside the church"</i>	1 Timothy 3:7		Matthew 5:16
15.	<i>"not self-willed"</i>	Titus 1:7		Galatians 2:20; 2 Peter 2:10
16.	<i>"not quick-tempered"</i>	Titus 1:7		James 1:19
17.	<i>"loving what is good"</i>	Titus 1:8		Acts 10:38; 2 Timothy 3:3
18.	<i>"just"</i>	Titus 1:8		1 John 3:7
19.	<i>"devout"</i>	Titus 1:8		1 Timothy 2:8 (with reference to men)
20.	<i>"self-controlled"</i>	Titus 1:8		Galatians 5:23
21.	<i>"holding fast the faithful word"</i>	Titus 1:9		Philippians 2:16
22.	<i>"able to exhort in sound doctrine"</i>	Titus 1:9		2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15 (with reference to the evangelist)
23.	<i>"able to refute those who contradict"</i>	Titus 1:9		2 Timothy 2:15 (with reference to the evangelist)
24.	<i>"the husband of one wife"</i> literally, <i>"a one woman man"</i>	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6		Marriage is not required, but for those who are married, their marriage must be according to God's will (Matthew 19:9, Hebrews 13:4, etc.)
25.	<i>"Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things."</i>	1 Timothy 3:11		Philippians 4:8; 2 Timothy 3:3; Titus 2:2-3; Matthew 25:21
26.	<i>"manages his own household well"</i>	1 Timothy 3:4		Ephesians 6:4 (with reference to fathers)
27.	<i>"keeping his children under control with all dignity"</i>	1 Timothy 3:4		Ephesians 6:4 (with reference to fathers)
28.	<i>"having children who believe"</i>	Titus 1:6		Ephesians 6:4 (with reference to fathers) Acts 5:14, Acts 8:12, Acts 16:31-34
29.	<i>"children not accused of dissipation or rebellion"</i>	Titus 1:6		Colossians 3:20 (with reference to children); 1 Samuel 2:12-13, 17 (Eli)