

God's Design For Church Leadership



Philippians 1:1

Voice From The Past



“ . . . [Ambrose] complains in the following terms: the old synagogue and afterward the church, had elders, without whose counsel nothing was done. It has fallen out of use, by what negligence I do not know . . .

John Calvin – 1600 A.D.

Outline



Summary

Team Ministry

Names of Elders

Responsibilities of Elders



Summary

Who Are God's Leaders?

**Paul and Timothy,
bond-servants of
Christ Jesus, to
in Christ Jesus
who are in
Philippi,
including the**

. . . all the saints

. . . overseers

. . . deacons



Congregation



**God's
Leaders**

Philippians 1:1

Overview - How Are They Unique?



Elders



Their Ministry:

- **Shepherding**
- **Overseeing**

Overview - How Are They Unique?

Elders

Their Ministry:

- **Shepherding**
- **Overseeing**

Deacons

Their Ministry:

- **Helping Elders**

Overview - How Are They Unique?

Elders

Their Ministry:

- Shepherding
- Overseeing

Unique Qualifications:

- Teacher
- Loves strangers
- Self-Controlled
- Not a new believer

Deacons

Their Ministry:

- Helping Elders

Overview - How Are They Unique?

Elders

Their Ministry:

- Shepherding
- Overseeing

Unique Qualifications:

- Teacher
- Loves strangers
- Self-Controlled
- Not a new believer

Deacons

Unique Qualifications:

- Tested
- Not double tongued

Their Ministry:

- Helping Elders

All Aspects of Leadership Covered

Topic	Elders	Deacons	Together
Ministry Established	Acts 11:30 Acts 14:23 Titus 1:5	Acts 6:1-6	Phil. 1:1
Qualifications Given	1 Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:6-9	1 Tim. 3:8-12	
Responsibilities Implied & Stated	Acts 15:2-23 Acts 20:17-28 1 Tim. 5:17-19 James 5:14 1 Peter 5:1-5	Acts 6:1-6 1 Tim. 3:12	
Call To Honor	1 Thess. 5:12-14 1 Tim. 5:17-19 Heb. 13:7, 17	1 Thess. 5:12-14 Heb. 13:7	
Guidelines For Discipline	1 Tim. 5:17-19		



***Eldership Is
A Team Ministry***

Elders ~ A Team Ministry

Multiple Elders In Every Church

Acts 11:30	“sending their gift to the elders”
Acts 14:23	“elders in every church”
Acts 15:2-23	“received by . . . the elders”
Acts 16:4	“determined by the . . . elders”
Acts 20:17	“called for the elders”
Acts 21:18	“went with us into . . . the elders”
1 Tim. 5:17-19	“Let the elders”
Titus 1:5	“appoint elders in every city”



Names of Elders

Where They Appear In The N.T.

Elder	Shepherd	Overseer	Deacon	Related Passages
πρεσβυτερος	ποιμην	επισκοπος	διακονος	
Acts 11:30 Acts 14:23 Acts 15:2-23 Acts 16:4 Acts 20:17 Acts 21:18 1 Tim. 5:17-19 Titus 1:5 James 5:14 1 Peter 5:1-5	Acts 20:28 Eph. 4:11 1 Peter 5:2	Acts 20:28 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:6-9	Acts 6:1-6 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:8-12	Acts 6:1-6 1 Thess. 5:12-14 Heb. 13:7, 17

Appear Together

Elders = Overseers = Shepherds

Elder	Shepherd	Overseer	Deacon	Related Passages
πρεσβυτερος	ποιμην	επισκοπος	διακονος	
Acts 11:30 Acts 14:23 Acts 15:2-23 Acts 16:4 Acts 20:17 Acts 21:18 1 Tim. 5:17-19 Titus 1:5 James 5:14 1 Peter 5:1-5	Acts 20:28 Eph. 4:11 1 Peter 5:2	Acts 20:28 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:6-9	Acts 6:1-6 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:8-12	Acts 6:1-6 1 Thess. 5:12-14 Heb. 13:7, 17

Same Group of Men



Responsibilities of Elders

Apostle's Priority – Teach & Shepherd



Acts 6:1-2, 4

Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said,

Apostle's Priority – Teach & Shepherd

Acts 6:1-2, 4

Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said,

It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables . . . (v.2) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (v. 4)

The Priority

Peter Called Himself – Your Fellow Elder



“Shepherd the flock of God . . .”

**The
Priority**

1 Peter 5:2

Peter Called Himself – Your Fellow Elder

“Shepherd the flock of God . . .”

**The
Priority**

- **serve as overseers**
- **serve willingly**
- **not for gain**
- **not as lords**
- **but as examples . . .**

1 Peter 5:2

The Elders' Priority – Word & Teaching



Let the elders who . . .

**lead well
be considered worthy of double
honor,
especially those who**

1 Timothy 5:17

The Elders' Priority – Word & Teaching



Let the elders who . . .

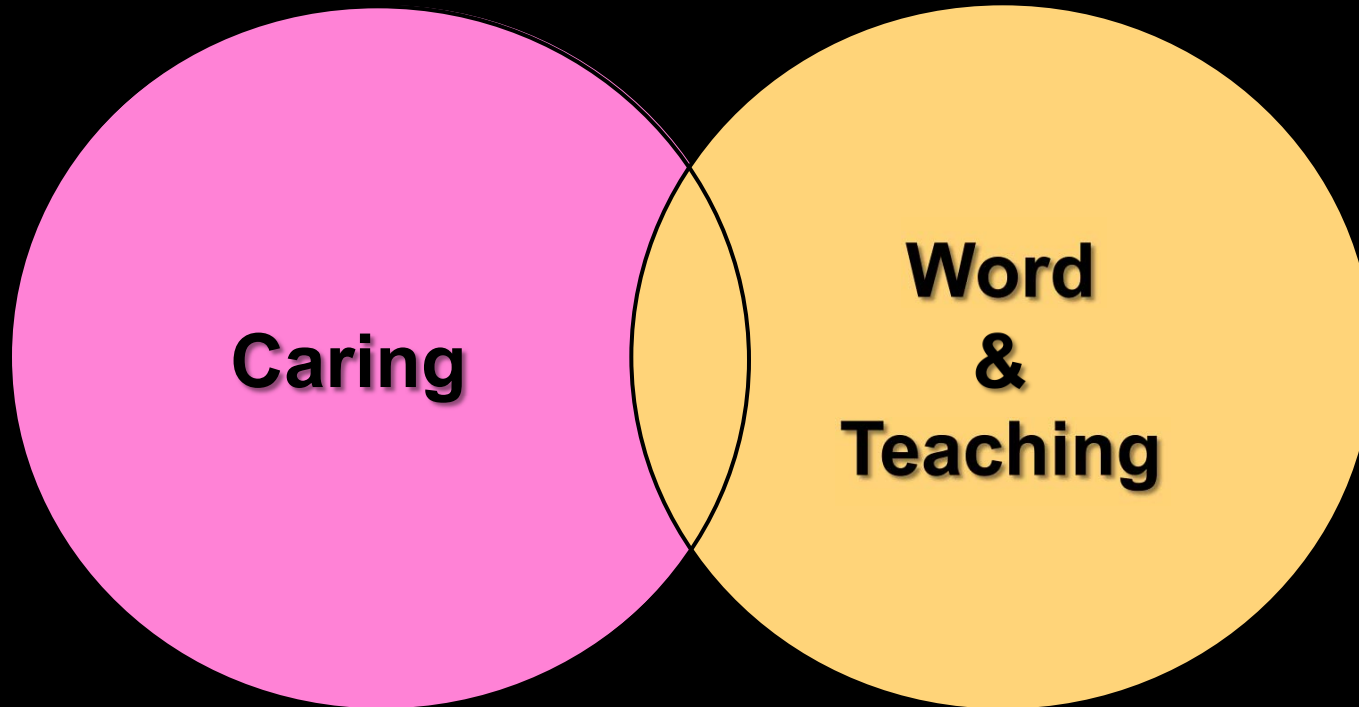
**lead well
be considered worthy of double
honor,
especially those who**

**work hard at the word and
teaching.**

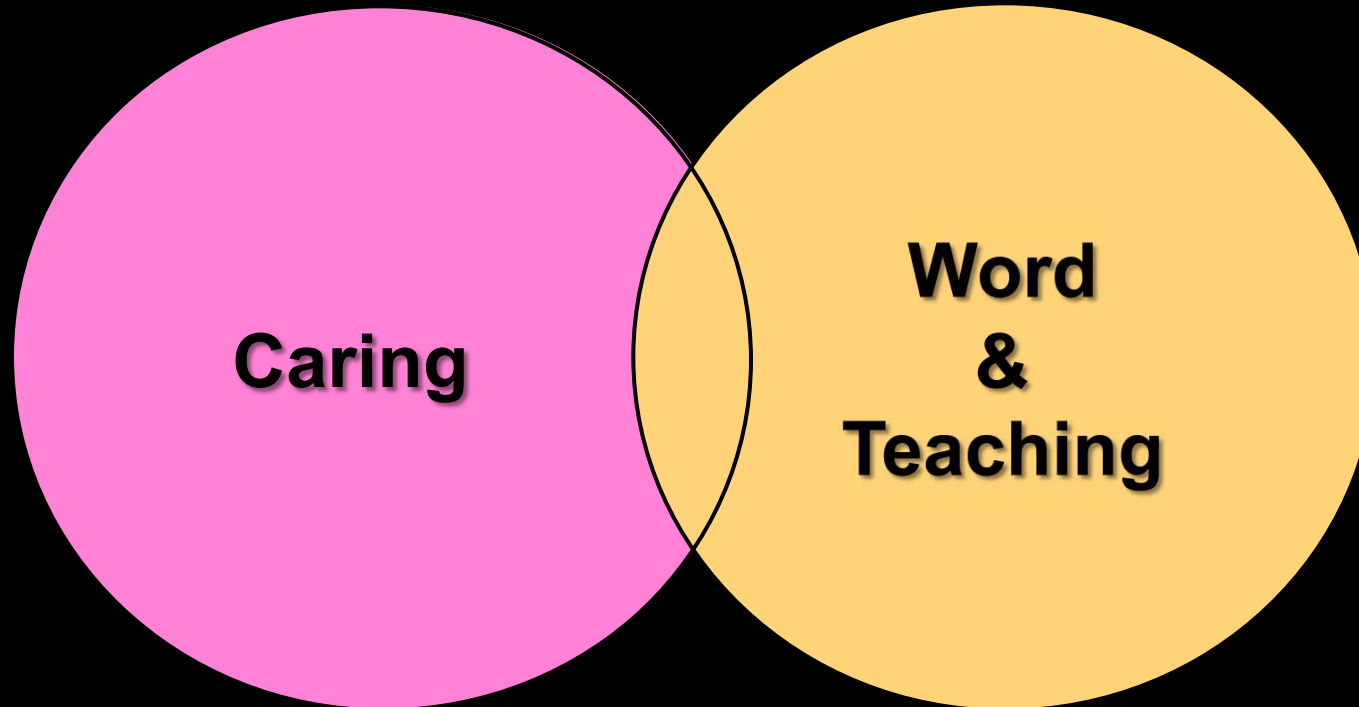
**The
Priority**

1 Timothy 5:17

Shepherding – Elder's Main Responsibility



Shepherding – Elder's Main Responsibility



... Oversight is 2nd priority ...

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd



Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd



Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Peter answered

Jesus replied

1st I love you

Feed My sheep

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd

Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Peter answered

Jesus replied

1st I love you

2nd I love you

Feed My sheep

Shepherd My sheep

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd

Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Peter answered

Jesus replied

1st I love you

Feed My sheep

2nd I love you

Shepherd My sheep

3rd I love you

Feed My sheep

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd

Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Peter answered

Jesus replied

1st I love you

2nd I love you

3rd I love you

Feed My sheep

Shepherd My sheep

Feed My sheep

The
Priority

Jesus Called Peter – Teach & Shepherd

Jesus said, “. . . do you truly love me?”

John 21:16-17

Peter answered

Jesus replied

1st I love you

2nd I love you

3rd I love you

Feed My sheep

Shepherd My sheep

Feed My sheep

The
Priority



How Shall We Respond?

How Shall We Respond?



1. Start by praying for guidance in selecting our elders.

- **Help in identifying – men who love Jesus**
- **Help in identifying – men who will shepherd**

How Shall We Respond?



1. Start by praying for guidance in selecting our elders.

- **Help in identifying – men who love Jesus**
- **Help in identifying – men who will shepherd**

2. Now let's be personal . . .

- **Do you love Jesus?**

How Shall We Respond?



1. Start by praying for guidance in selecting our elders.

- **Help in identifying – men who love Jesus**
- **Help in identifying – men who will shepherd**

2. Now let's be personal . . .

- **Do you love Jesus?**
- **If so, how are you serving Him?**

How Shall We Respond?



1. Start by praying for guidance in selecting our elders.

- **Help in identifying – men who love Jesus**
- **Help in identifying – men who will shepherd**

2. Now let's be personal . . .

- **Do you love Jesus?**
- **If so, how are you serving Him?**
- **If your service is about who does it, then repent.**