

ELDERS WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR (part one)

In (1 Tim.3:1-7), Paul taught the responsibilities of the church to train, qualify, and ordain ministers and in (1 Tim.5:17-19), he taught about the church's responsibility to honor and support the worthy elder.

This lesson will have two parts.

- The first part will study the qualifications for the elder to be worthy of double honor.
- The second part will study the responsibility of the church to recognize the elder worthy of double honor.

In this lesson, we will study three aspects of the qualifications of the elder who is worthy of double honor.

1. There are several titles given to the pastor of a local church.

The title that is given in our lesson text is elder (presbuteros). In today's church, we would refer to him as the senior pastor. But this may not be entirely accurate.

Elder refers to the spiritual maturity of the one holding position of authority over the word and the work of God (Act 14:23; 20:17, 28).

In (Acts 20:28), Paul refers to the elder's **overseer** (episkopos) [oversight of spiritual growth] (1 Pet.5:1-2) responsibility over the congregation of the church as well as his responsibility as **shepherd-teacher** (poimen-didaskalos) (John 21:15-17) feed my sheep with the word of God for spiritual growth. [milk and meat] (Heb.5:13-14).

(John 21:16) "He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, '**Shepherd My sheep.**'"

2. It is important for the ordained ministers who have the spiritual gift of teacher to always be mindful of the standard that the word of God requires for his life and conduct.

Paul outlined the qualifications for ordinations and ministry based on the Word of God in (1 Tim.3:1-7) and (Titus 1:5-9).

Personal life (1 Tim.3:1-3) – Eleven responsibilities.

- **If married and family** (1 Tim.3:4-5)
 - "If a man does not know how to manage (proistemi) [rule well] his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?"
- **Not spiritual immature gifted believer** (1 Tim.3:6)
 - "Not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."
- **Community reputation** (1 Tim.3:7)
 - "And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into the reproach and the snare of the devil."

3. **Paul identified three areas for the elder of the church to qualify for “double honor (diplous time).” (1 Tim.5:15-17).**

- **1st - Elder who rules well** (proistemi kalos) (perf.a.ptc. nplm) [history as elder] (1 Tim.5:17) – One who manages, leads, and attends to the spiritual growth development of the sheep under his care. (1 Tim.3:4-5).

(1 Pet.5:1-3) “Therefore, I exhort **the elders** among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God** among you, **exercising oversight** not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

- **2nd - Elder who works hard** (kopiazo) (p.a.ptc. nplm) in (en+loc of sphere) preaching (logos) [word of God] and teaching (didaskalia) [Categorical Bible Doctrine] (CBD) (1 Tim.5:17). One qualification of ordination is “able to teach” (1 Tim.3:2).

(Titus 1:9) “**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.**”

(Col.1:28-29) “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present **every man completer in Christ. For this purpose, I labor** striving according to His power which mightily works within me.”

The Pastor-Teacher will spend ten hours of study for every one hour of teaching. In addition to that task he will have to attend to the “daily pressures of the church” (2 Cor.11:28). He must learn to manage his time between church ministry, marriage, family, and community. [This does not include outside employment].

As an elder of a local church, you can expect a 70-hour work week and you should know that Jesus may expect 72 hours (Matt.20:1-16/ 20:9).

- **3rd - Elder whose life and ministry is “above reproach” to accusations (1 Tim.5:19).**

The elder is under the divine chain of command. Jesus is called the Chief Shepherd over the elder shepherd (1 Pet.5:1-5; 1 Cor.11:3).

GOD

CHRIST

ELDER

CHURCH

(Heb.13:17) “Obey your leaders and submit to them, **for they 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.”

(1 Pet.2:25) “For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the **Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.**”