

The Doctrine of the Church

The Office of Elder: Functions

I. Elders Oversee, Lead, Govern the Flock

1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17

1 Pet. 5:2-3; 1 Tim. 3:4-5; 5:17

1. Servant-leadership (Matt. 20:25-28)
2. Leadership by example (Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 5:3)

II. Elders Shepherd the Flock

Shepherding includes numerous responsibilities.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20), the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls (1 Pet. 2:25), and the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)

A. Protect the sheep (Acts 20:28-31)

a) Elders are to watch over themselves
1 Cor. 9:27; 1 Tim. 4:16

b) Elders are to guard the sheep

c) Consider how much of the NT is devoted to warning against false teaching

*This requires at times an unpleasant part of ministry (Phil. 3:18-19; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 1:15; 2:16-18; 4:10, 14; 3 Jn. 9-10)

B. Feed the sheep (Teaching and preaching)

1 Tim. 3:2; 4:13; 5:17; Acts 20:20

Titus 1:9; 2 Tim. 4:1-5

C. Care for the sheep

1. Those who are sick (James 5:14)

2. Those who are weak (1 Thess. 5:14)

3. Those who are wandering (Matt. 18:14)

4. Those who need counsel (Acts 20:20; 1 Thess. 2:9-12)

D. Equip the Sheep

Eph. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:2

E. The ministry of the elders is a means to help the saints persevere