

WELCOME!

SABBATH GREETINGS !!

FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS





ELDERS

in Every Assembly

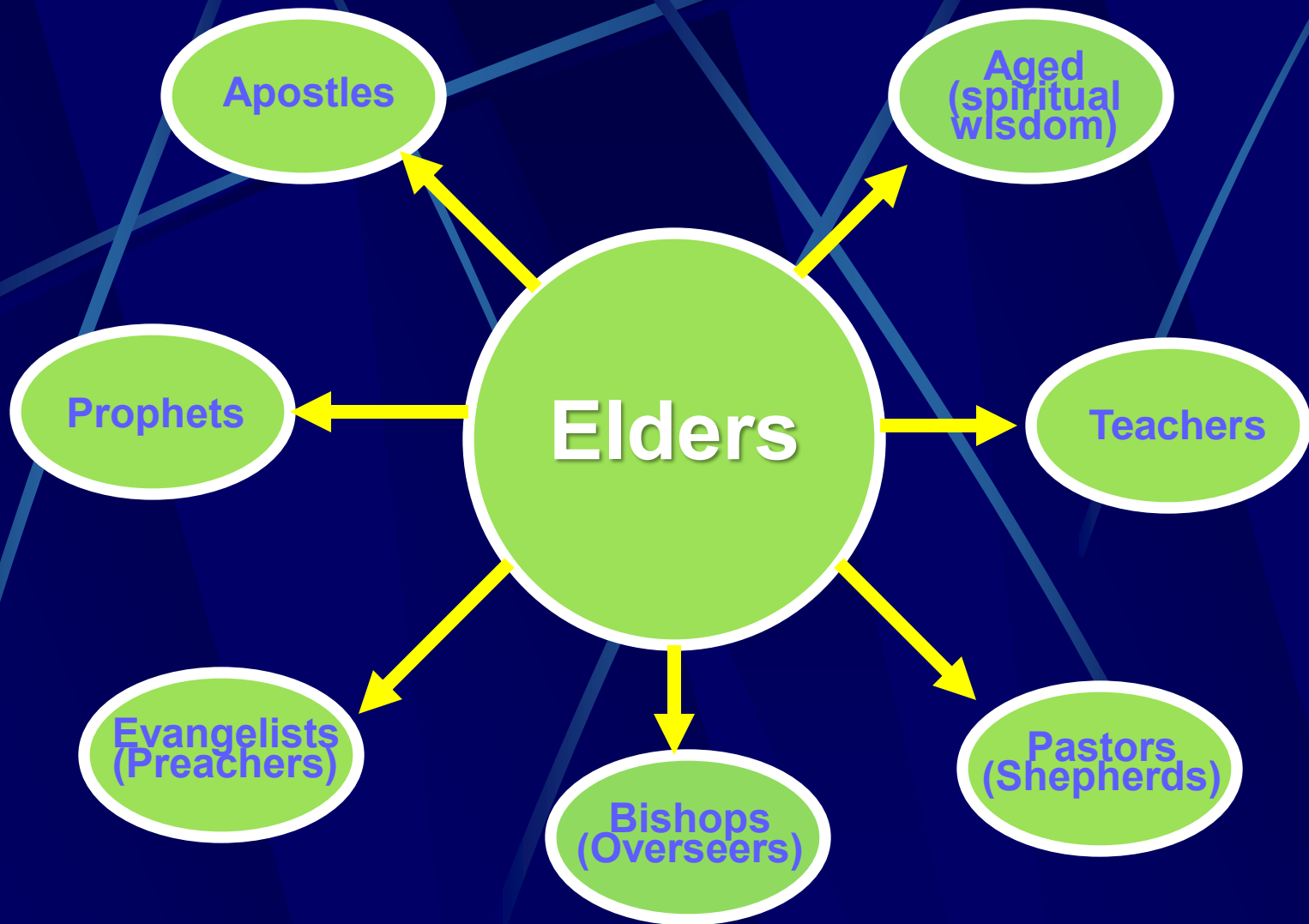
The Chief Shepherd

- **God promised “one shepherd” – Christ**

(John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.)

- **Christ wants elders in every church to work as under shepherds of His sheep**

1 Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.



Elder

Strong's Greek Dictionary
4245. presbuteros

πρεσβύτερος presbuteros *pres-boo'-ter-os*

comparative of presbus (elderly); older; as noun, a senior; specially, an Israelite Sanhedrist (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian "presbyter":-- elder(-est), old.

- **G4245 Πρεσβύτερος (presbuteros) *pres-boo'-ter-os***
- Jewish: (*elderly*); *older*; as noun, a *senior*
- Christian: "presbyter": person who is mature in faith and sound in wisdom

The natural progression is to become an elder in some capacity

Elder

- Used 73 times in the New Testament
67 times as #4245. **presbuteros** (66 translated as “elder” or “elders” and once left as “presbytery”), 3 times as #4246. **presbutes**, 3 times as #4244. **presbuterion**.

Also a derivative is found in 2 places #4243. **presbeuo** which is rendered ‘ambassadors’

- “Apostles and elders” used frequently....
 - And the **apostles and elders** came together for to consider of this matter. -- Acts 15:6

Elder

● Multiple elders per city

- For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee. -- Titus 1:5

● Multiple elders per local church

- And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. -- Acts 14:23
- Is any sick among you? let him call for the elder of the church. -- James 5:14

Quote from Polycarp, an elder at Smyrna

"Let the presbyters (elders) be compassionate and merciful to all, bringing back those that wander, visiting all the sick, and not neglecting the widow, the orphan, or the poor, but always providing for that which is becoming in the sight of God and of man; abstaining from all wrath, respect of persons, and unjust judgment; keeping far off from all covetousness, not quickly crediting an evil report against any one, not severe in judgment." -- Polycarp

This attitude of humbleness is the key to eldership.

Ordination of Elders

The practice of ordaining elders after churches had been established was the standard in Paul's missionary journeys.

In Acts we read that after Paul and his companions had evangelized Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (13:13-14:20), they later returned to those cities (14:21), encouraged and strengthened the churches (14:22), and ordained elders (14:23).

Ordination of Elders

- Paul and Timothy, with the help of some others, had started the Church of God at Philippi. Years later they could write and address the church as follows:

"Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, **with the bishops and deacons**" --Philippians 1:1
- Evidently this church had reached the stage of maturity and had been placed into the hands of qualified **local elders, i.e., the bishops (overseers)**.

This was the natural progression of things

BISHOP, ELDERS, OVERSEERS

- The office of a bishop (**episkope**) and elder (**presbuteros**) are sometimes interchangeable expressions and that bishops are overseers (**episkopos**) of congregations and they are also gifted by the Spirit of God as pastors (**poimen**), i.e. one who feeds, tends, cares for.

Bishop & Elder Used Interchangeably

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain **elders** (presbuteros) in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be **blameless**, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a **bishop** (episkopos) must be **blameless**,...

--Titus 1:5-7

Leaders of the Local Church

- And from Miletus he {Paul} sent to Ephesus, and called the **elders** {presbuteros} of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them.... Take heed therefore **unto yourselves**, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers** {episkopos}, to **feed** {poimaino} the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- Act 20:17, 28

Leaders of the Local Church

The **elders** {presbuteros} which are **among you** I exhort, who **am also an elder**, ... **Feed** {poimaino} the flock of God which is **among you**, taking the **oversight** {episkopeō} thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

- 1 Peter 5:1-3

“Many in one”

- “Elder” refers to their maturity and wisdom
- “Bishop” refers to their duty and responsibility to provide oversight
- “Pastor” refers to their God-given gift to feed and to tend the flock

Our governing model should not force a congregation to have more than one pastor elder nor should it restrict it from having multiple pastor elders.

General oversight of a local congregation

- All elders are to be in submission one to another
- (1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.)

General oversight of a local congregation

- All elders are equal and on the same level
- **(Matthew 23:8-11 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.)**

General oversight of a local congregation

- **Matthew 20:25-28** But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

General oversight of a local congregation

- **All elders are contributing members to the spiritual oversight of the congregation**
- **However, all elders are not equal in their gifting, biblical knowledge and understanding, leadership ability, & experience**

Some Object to Elders

- Because it will change the status quo
- Because it requires new obligations, new expectations and a willingness to follow the leadership of the elders
- Because they lack faith in the Lord's design for the local church

Elders, the Church and Sin

- When a church can have elders but won't have elders, ***there is sin to correct,***
- Acts 14:21-23 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And **when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.**

Elders, the Church and Sin

- When a church can have elders but won't have elders, *there is sin to correct*
- Titus 1:4-5 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Elders, the Church and Sin

- When a church has elders who are not leading as God expects, ***there is sin to correct***
- (1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all [men]. ;

Elders, the Church and Sin

- When a church has elders who are not leading as God expects, ***there is sin to correct***
- (1Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 **Them that sin rebuke before all,** that others also may fear.)

Elders, the Church and Sin

- When a church has elders but members will not follow their scriptural oversight, *there is sin to correct*
- Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

Elders, the Church and Sin

- When a church has elders but members will not follow their scriptural oversight, ***there is sin to correct***
- 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, **and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;** 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. [And] be at peace among yourselves

Every Group Needs the Organization the Lord has Arranged & Approved

- **The will of God, Acts 14:23**
- **Lacking without it, Titus 1:5**
- **An example to follow, 1 Cor. 4:16**
Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. (See 1 Timothy 3 all verses and Titus 1 all verses for qualifications)

Every Group Needs Shepherds – Eph. 4:11-13

- **To lead us**, Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of [their] conversation. (Numbers 11:16, 24-29)
 - **Rule**: “To go before; to be a leader, example”
 - **Oversee the church’s work**, Acts 11:30; 15:4, 6, 22-23; 21:18-26; Jas. 5:14

Every Group Needs Shepherds – Eph. 4:11-13

- To lead us,
- Watch for our souls, Heb. 13:17 (Ezek. 34)
 - Examples for us to follow, 1 Peter 5:31 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

Every Assembly of Saints Needs Shepherds (Eph. 4:11)

- To feed us, *1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28*
 - The word of God, *Heb. 5:12-14*
 - With urgent warnings, comforting encouragement, helpful support and enduring patience, *1 Ths. 5:14, 2 Tim. 4:2*

Every Church Assembly Needs Shepherds (Eph. 4:11)

- To plead us & protect us (watch for our spiritual safety)
- Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Isa. 62:6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence)
 - Danger of doctrinal error, Acts 15:23-24; Titus 1:9-11
 - Danger of moral decline, Acts 20:29-31
 - Danger of indifference, 1 Thess. 5:12

Every Group Needs Willing & Qualified Men (Acts 14:23)

- Qualified men who are willing to serve (*1 Tim. 3:1, 2-7, 11; Titus 1:5-9*)
 - Willing to accept the responsibility of caring for the souls of others, *1 Peter 5:2-3*
 - Willing to give an account to God, *Hebrews 13:17* (steward, *Titus 1:7*)

Every Assembly Needs Willing & Qualified Men (Acts 14:23)

- Men who serve as elders should be honored for their work, not opposed when they do their work, *1 Ths. 5:12-14*
- Those who do not willingly obey qualified elders when doing their scriptural work are sinning, *Hebrews 13:17*
- Such honor of serving is a blessing to the elders and to the church (*Heb. 13:17*)

Elders in Every Church Assembly

- Qualified elders are needed in every local church group
- Where there are elders they must oversee in truth -- and the church must humbly follow (*Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17*) [*proving all things and using Matt 18 protocol*]
- We must join together in faith, working together to do God's will in God's way (*1 Ths. 5:13; Eph. 4:2-3, 11-12*)

THANK YOU!



ELDERS IN EVERY ASSEMBLY



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