

# Elders in Every Church, Church Organization 101

## Understanding the Organization of the Lord's Church

Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5

As the leadership goes, so goes the church. The Lord has invested much in the definition of leadership appropriate for this, "the age of the ages" (Eph. 1:10; 3:11, 21). Unfortunately, God's will is often ignored. A thoughtful look is in order.

### Titles, Qualifications, Character, and Experience

- I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
  - Seasoned
  - Tested
  - Virtuous
  - Knowledgeable
  - Under control
  - Positive in direction
  - People sensitive
- Shepherds (I Pet. 5:1-4)
  - Smelling like sheep
  - Visible, sacrificial leadership

### A Different Sort of Leadership (Matt. 20:20-28; Jn. 13:1-15)

- Servant leaders
- Examples of humility
- Among the people

### Authority (Heb. 13:17)

- Though different from worldly models, authority is still found in an eldership
- No one elder, however, has any more authority than anyone else in the congregation
  - Plurality is no coincidence (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
  - Team
- Authority derived from God (cf. Matt. 18:18).
- In matters of faith, no discretion allowed (cf. Matt. 5:17-19); in matters of judgment, expediency (cf. Acts 6:1-6)

Different from the ways of the world—yes! Powerful in the difference! God's wisdom is shown in the nature of New Testament leadership as is the Christ-like character of His church.