

Plurality of Elders

- * Barnabas and Saul gave their offering for Judea's poor to the elders (Acts 11:30)
- * the elders at Jerusalem united with the twelve apostles to deliberate over doctrinal controversy (Acts 15)
- * The Biblical record reveals oversight be the plurality of elders in the churches of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium , and Anitoch (Acts 14:23); in the church at Ephesus (Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 3:17; 5:17-25); the church at Philippi (Phil. 1:1); the churches on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5); and according to Peter, the churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1 Peter 1:1; 5:1).
- * Both the apostles Paul and Peter directly charged the elders of the church to pastor (Shepherd) and oversee the local congregation (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1,2).
- * At both the beginning and end of Paul's ministry, he appointed a plurality of elders to care for the churches he planted (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). According to the Titus 1:5 passage, Paul did not consider a church to be fully developed until it had functioning, qualified elders.
- * Paul calls on the congregation to render double honor to the elders who "rule " the church well, especially the elders who work hard at "preaching and teaching." This honor includes financial help (1 Timothy 5:17,18).
- * Paul states that the elders are the stewards, or household managers, of the local assembly (Titus 1:7)
- * Paul states that the elders are the church's overseers (Acts 20:28; Phil 1:1).
- * The elders are solemnly charged to protect the church from false teachers (Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9-11).
- * Elders are men placed in the church as overseers by the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 20:28)
- * Peter warns the elders against being too authoritative
1 Peter 5:3
- * James instructs the saints to call for the elders of the church if they are sick (James 5:14).
- * Men must be qualified before they can serve as elders (1 Tim 3; Titus 1)
- * Paul states that the elders "take care of the church of God"
1 Timothy 3:5)