

ELDER'S JOB DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION - (Jeremiah 23:1-4; Ezekiel 34:1-16)

The "office" has designated names:

(Acts 20:17) "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the **elders** of the church"
(v28) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock,
over which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to feed the church of God, ... "

(1 Tim. 3:1) "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a **bishop**, he desires a good work"

(1 Tim. 4:14) "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy,
with the laying on of the hands of the **presbytery**."

(Titus 1:5) "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou should set in order the things that are
wanting, and ordain **elders** in every city, as I had appointed thee"
(v7) "For a **bishop** must be ... "

(1 Peter 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 ... "

There is a link to the words "elders" "feed the flock" (pastor) and "chief Shepherd"

These designations are synonymous of the same "office" - elder, overseer, bishop, presbyter,
and "feed the flock" is a reference to "shepherd" with Jesus being "chief Shepherd."

"Pastor" (Gr. POIMEN) - a shepherd, one who tends herds and flocks.
The RSV uses the word "tend the flock."

(Ephesians 4:11) "And he gave some, apostles, prophets; and some evangelists;
and some, **pastors** and teachers."

(Gr. POIMEN) is the word "pastors" and means "a shepherd;" therefore,
a pastor is identified with the other designations of "office of a bishop."

Qualifications are given for one to be appointed to "the office of a bishop."

(1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:5-9)

WHAT MAY THE "SHEEP" EXPECT FROM THE "SHEPHERD"?

1. (Acts 20:28) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves ... " - self-examination; example.

(1 Peter 5:3) " ... but being examples to the flock."

2. (Acts 20:28) “... and to all the flock”

The lambs will follow the sheep you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray.
When the sheep go wrong, it won't be long,
Till the lambs are as wrong as they
And so for the sheep we earnestly plead,
For the sake of the lambs today,
If the sheep are lost, what a terrible cost
The lambs will have to pay.

3. (Acts 20:28) “... to feed the church of God”

“Feed” - see that spiritual nourishment is given to the “flock.”
It's the work of a shepherd toward his flock.

(1 Peter 5:2) “Feed the flock of God which is among you”

4. (Acts 20:31) “Therefore watch ... warn ... “

(v29) “... shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.”

(Hebrews 13:17) “... for they watch for your souls ... “

5. (1 Timothy 3:1) “If a man desire the office of a bishop”

“Desire” - good pleasure; implies a gracious purpose; longing for; willingness.
(1 Peter 5:2) “... not by constraint, but willingly”

“He desires a good work” - not merely holding down an office; labor; sustained effort.

6. (1 Tim. 5:17) “Let the elders that rule well ... “ (also 1 Tim. 3:5; Heb. 13:17)

(1 Peter 5:2) “... taking the oversight ... “

(1 Peter 5:3) “Neither as being lords over God's heritage ... “

7. (Titus 1:9) “... be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers”

(Matthew 7:15) “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing,
but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

(Acts 20:28) “... grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.”

(1 Sam. 17:34-37) David, a shepherd, kills a lion and a bear who “took a lamb ... “

WHAT MAY THE "SHEPHERD" EXPECT FROM THE "SHEEP"?

1. **KNOW THEM** - (1 Thess. 5:12) "We beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you"

More than mere acquaintance; it's meet ' greet, friendship, fellowship.

2. **ESTEEM THEM** - (1 Thess. 5:13) "And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake."

"Esteem" - to hold in high regard; to place value upon; admire; think favorably.

"For their work's sake" - our response flows from their responsibility and labor.

3. **WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR** - (1 Tim. 5:17) "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine."

Let your esteem for them be conspicuous in your relationship to them.

4. **CONCERNING AN ACCUSATION AGAINST THEM** - (1 Tim. 5:19) "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

No charge is to be received that is not substantiated in order to keep away the trivial, irresponsible, and under-mining charge against them.

There must be witnesses before any charge receives consideration.

5. **COMMUNICATE WITH THEM** - (Acts 15:22-23) "Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: and they wrote letters by them after this manner, The apostles and elders and brethren send greetings unto the brethren ... "

A threat to unity was resolved with the inclusion of all involved.

6. **OBEY THEM** - (Hebrews 13:17) "Obey them that have the rule over you ... "

(Gr. PEITHO) we obey not by way of coercion but the result of persuasion, and we have been won over.

7. **SUBMIT** - (Hebrews 13:17) "... and submit yourselves: for they ... "

We "submit," not because of a position of being inferior; rather, a choice because of the elder's position of spiritual maturity, responsibility, and office.

Do not be the instigator of an uprising against them in matters of opinion.

"Submit" - readiness or willingness to yield; to cease resistance; comply.

CHRISTIAN QUALITIES (AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS & DEACONS)

In (1 Timothy 3) and (Titus 1) apostle Paul lists qualities for church leaders. It is a Biblical profile of Christian maturity. These qualities form a goal for all Christians. (though all Christians do not need to be a "husband" and "have children")

The listing gives understanding as to the character and manner of life of men to serve as elders and deacons. Noticing the standard, it becomes obvious that these "must be" qualities are associated with one's life in all phases (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual).

Be careful not to demand more than God requires, but do not settle for less.

THE CHRISTIAN'S TARGET IN LIVING	"A BISHOP THEN MUST BE"	"LIKEWISE MUST THE DEACONS BE"
(Phil. 2:15)	1. "blameless"	
(1 Cor. 7:2)	2. "husband of one wife"	"husband of one wife"
(Gal. 5:23)	3. "temperate"	
(1 Thess. 5:6)	4. "sober-minded"	"grave"
(Romans 12:13)	5. "given to hospitality"	
(2 Tim. 2:24)	6. "apt to teach"	
(Eph. 5:18)	7. "not given to wine" "no brawler"	"not given to much wine"
(Eph. 4:31)	8. "no striker"	
(1 Peter 2:11-12)	9. "orderly"	
(Eph. 4:32; James 1:19)	10. "gentle"	
(Col. 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15)	11. "not contentious"	
(1 Timothy 6:10-11)	12. "no lover of money"	"not greedy of filthy lucre"

CHRISTIANS	ELDERS	DEACONS
(Eph. 5:23 - 6:4)	13. "rules well own house"	"rules their own houses well"
(Eph. 6:1-4)	14. "children in subjection" "having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly"	"ruling their children well"
(2 Tim. 2:15; Heb. 5:12)	15. "not a novice"	
(Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 4:4)	16. "a good report of them which are without"	
(Romans 12:10)	17. "not self-willed"	
(Romans 12:1-2)	18. "holy"	
(1 Thess. 5:21)	19. "holding to faithful word" "able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convict the gainsayers"	"holding mystery of the faith in pure conscience"
(1 Thess. 5:15; Titus 3:1)	20. "lover of good"	
(1 Cor. 15:58)	21. (proved)	"let these also first be proved"
(1 Thess. 2:3-6) (James 3:9-11)	22.	"not double-tongued"