

The Gospel-Shaped Church: Paul's Letters to Timothy
Gospel-Shaped Leadership (Part 2)
1 Timothy 3:1–7

Thesis: God desires elders to lead his household and who are men shaped by the gospel – in what they believe, how they walk, how they minister to others, and what they teach.

I. The Office of Elder

- A. One office with various titles: Elders/Presbyters, Overseers/Bishops, Pastors/Shepherds (Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5–7; Eph 4:11; 1 Pet 5:1–4)
- B. Plurality (Exod 4:29; Acts 14:23; 15:2; 20:17; Tit 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Pet 5:1)
- C. Servant leaders under headship of Jesus (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4; Heb 13:17)

II. The Elder's Task (3:1)

- A. To care for the souls of Christ's body (Acts 20:27ff; Heb 13:17)
 - 1. By ministering the Word of Christ
 - 2. By protecting flock from false teaching
 - 3. To equip the saints for the work of ministry (Eph 4:12)

III. Elder Qualifications

- A. Must be a man (2:8–15; cf. 1 Cor 14:34–35)
- B. Must aspire to the office (3:1; 1 Pet 5:2)
- C. Must be above reproach in family management
 - 1. A one-woman man (2)
 - 2. Manages own household well (4–5)
- D. Must be above reproach in his character
 - 1. Sober-minded, self-controlled (2)
 - 2. Respectable (2)
 - 3. Hospitable (2)
 - 4. Able to teach (2)
 - 5. Not a drunkard (3)
 - 6. Not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome (3)
 - 7. Not a lover of money (3)
 - 8. Not a recent convert (6)
 - 9. Thought well of by outsiders (7)