

The Elders Among You

Sermon 1 – 2/11/18

We are asking our church to spend at least a month prayerfully considering the need for another elder and three more deacons.

Mike Gabriel has been nominated for the eldership.

Hector Acayturri, Evan Schellenger and Jim Zwick are nominated as Deacons.

4 Initial Observations

1. Deacons are vital to the church “elder-helpers”.
2. The office of deacon is not intended to be a stepping stone to the eldership.
3. The fact a man is an elder – does not mean he will eventually become the senior pastor or main preaching pastor if the pulpit is vacant.
4. The fact a man is an elder – does not mean he will be paid a salary by the church.

1 Timothy 5:17 -- Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who **labor in the word and doctrine.**

What we see from this text is that all elders rule.

All elders are equal in authority.

Some elders specialize in preaching and teaching.

I. The Two Offices in the Church

A. Deacons Acts 6:1-7

Elder Helpers – Deacons lead by delegated authority.

They are chosen by the congregation to fulfill important physical roles within the church and accomplish their mission by delegating and leading the members of the church.

B. Elders

One office – equal in authority with each other -- two primary roles within the office.

1. Preaching Pastor – sometimes referred to as Senior Pastor – primary focus is on the Word and doctrine.
2. Ruling Elder – (lay elder) can and must be able to defend the faith – but their primary focus is to deal with the people (shepherd) and lead the congregation.

Larger churches may have more than one trained man who will be given to preaching.

3 synonymous terms for the office of pastor/elder

Pastor (poimen) = shepherd -- watch care

Elder = (presbuteros) age/wisdom -- (Presbyterian)

Bishop = (episcopos) authority (Episcopal)

II. Models of Leadership

1. The **Business Model** of leadership
2. The **Military Model** of leadership
3. The, **Political Model** of leadership.
4. The **Shepherd Model**

III. The Shepherd Model of Leadership 1 Peter 5:1-4

A. The Humility of the Exhortations

v. 1 -- I exhort – *parakeleo*

I appeal – I encourage – I urge – as a fellow elder

v. 2 -- The Church of Jesus Christ is Christ's flock.

The elders (and deacons) are part of this flock (among you)

B. Negative and Positive Directives to Overseers 2a-3

not because you must

but because you are willing

not greedy for money

but eager to serve

not “lording it over”
those entrusted to you

but being examples to the flock

Calvin -- *“In exhorting pastors to their duty, he points out three vices especially which are often to be found, namely sloth, desire for gain, and lust for power.”*

Matt. 20:25 – *“The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*