

1 Elders

Shepherds of the Household of God

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4 Three Background Assumptions

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◇ Some requirements explicitly listed, on the other hand, make situational assumptions and describe what an elder's life should look like in those areas provided they characterize his life.

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Appointment (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5; cf. Acts 6:1-3)

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6 Honor and Shame

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8 Submission?

◆To act in accordance with—to trustfully follow (obey/submit | Gr. *peithō/hypeikō*)

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9 Three Qualifiers

◆An elder is acting within their God-given jurisdiction as a shepherd in the household of God.

❖Nowhere does the NT suggest that elders have ubiquitous authority. An elder may have helpful counsel in certain areas that are not directly related to the life of the church and/or the oversight of one’s soul, but that counsel cannot legitimately take the weight of God-delegated authority.

◆An elder’s exhortation does not require something sinful.

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◆Elders do not have to “enforce” their authority through heavy-handedness and a domineering disposition toward those who do not submit to godly exhortation. That discipline will come from

either 1) the church in church discipline in the proper circumstances or 2) the fatherly chastening of God toward those not submitting to the spiritual authority that God has placed over them.



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