



all in

THE CHURCH
Being the Body of Christ

Leadership in the Church

1. What leadership structure has God ordained for the church?
2. What are church leaders to look like?
3. What are their functions and goals?

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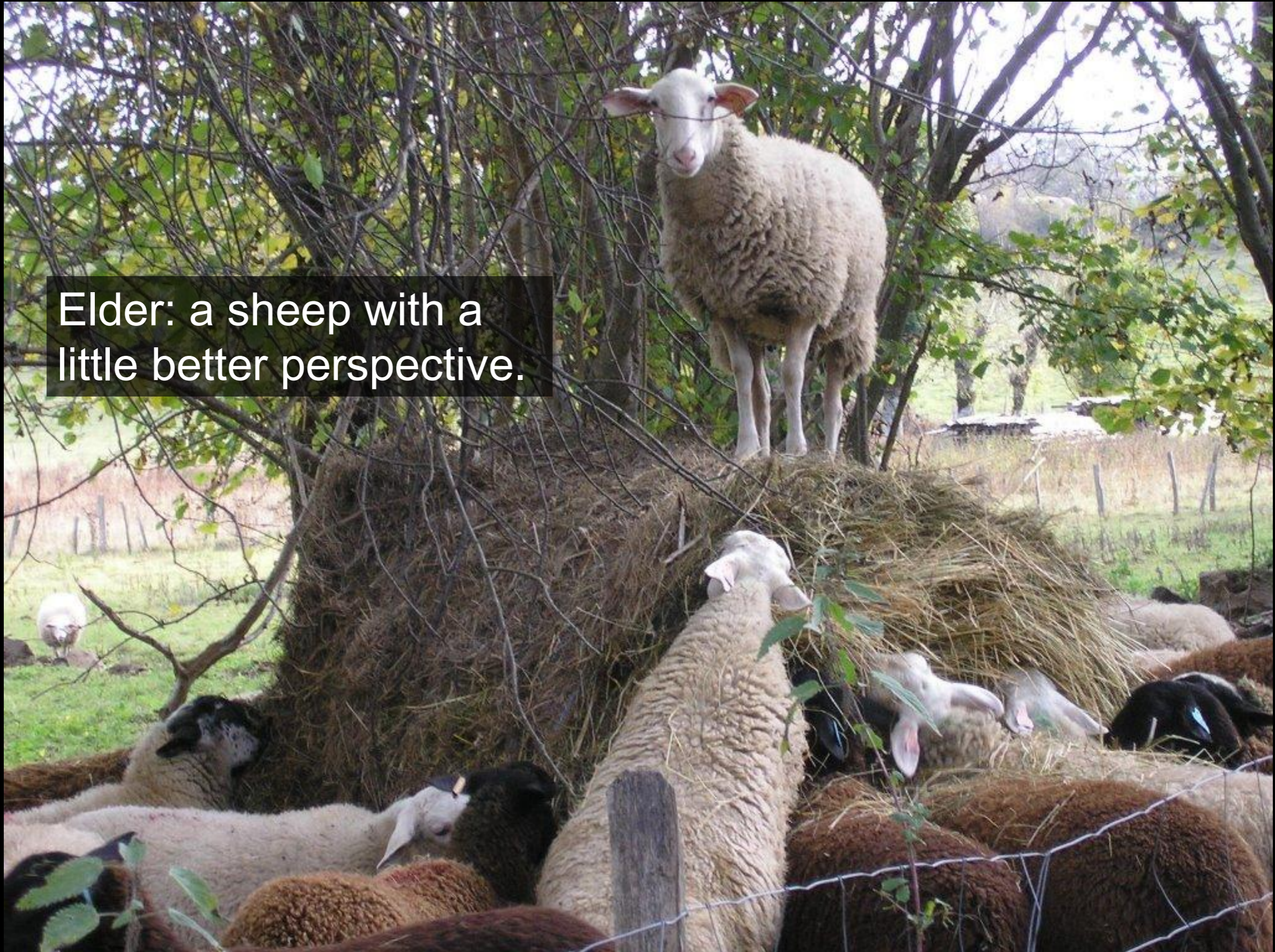
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Leadership in the Church

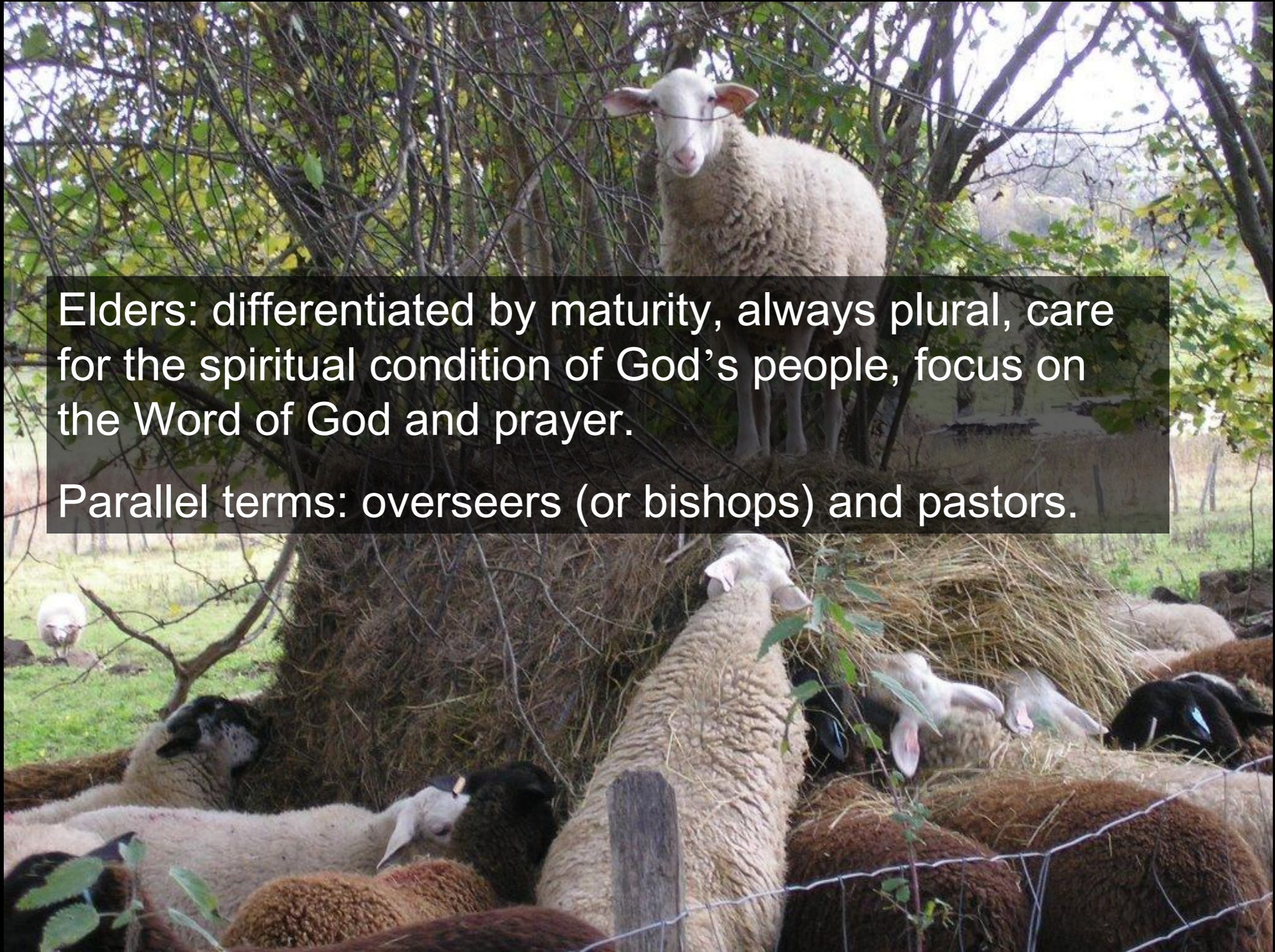
1 Peter 5:1-3 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed; shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Notice the categorical difference





Elder: a sheep with a little better perspective.



Elders: differentiated by maturity, always plural, care for the spiritual condition of God's people, focus on the Word of God and prayer.

Parallel terms: overseers (or bishops) and pastors.

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Deacons: (means servant) serve the physical aspects of the church; includes addressing material needs like care for widows, the sick and needy. Also administer the physical resources of the church (like buildings and air conditioners 😊)

So two offices in church leadership: elders and deacons.

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2. What are church leaders to look like?

Two key passages: I Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9

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I Timothy 3:2-7 An overseer, then must be...

Above reproach: That means no charge against him

The husband of one wife: (Man of one woman), devoted to his wife,

Temperate: sober minded, vigilant

Prudent: self controlled,

Respectable: well behaved, modest

Hospitable: with an open home and heart

Able to teach: skilled in teaching God' Scriptures

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Not addicted to wine or pugnacious: not a drunkard or a brawler

Gentle: patient, moderate

Peaceable: not contentious, not a fighter

Free from the love of money: not covetous or overly concerned with things

He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?): proven leadership in his home with his children demonstrating God's favor under his leadership skills.

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And not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

He must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

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Titus 1:5-9 (For brevity sake let's highlight the elements not mentioned in I Timothy 3) These other elements are:

Children who believe: proving his ability to lead others to Christ

Not accused of dissipation or rebellion: men who know how to thrive under the authority of others.

Not self willed: not arrogant or bull headed

Not pugnacious: not violent or quarrelsome

Loving what is good: a lover of God, good people and godly virtue

Sensible: of sound mind, mentally and emotionally balanced

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Just: righteous, virtuous

Devout: deeply dedicated to God

Self-controlled: demonstrating control over his tongue, emotions and appetites

Holding fast the faithful word: studying, practicing, and promoting the trustworthy Scriptures

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1 Timothy 3:8-12 Deacons likewise ... must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.”

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3. What are their functions and goals?

1 Peter 5:1-3 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed; shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

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1 Peter 5:1-3 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,

Involving: guarding, guiding and feeding God's people

Encouraging them toward: full maturity in Christ, full engagement in the body,

Not primarily doing the ministry, but equipping others for the work of service.

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Most of BCF's "shepherding" happens in house groups where we:
share God's Word
share our lives
share prayer and
enjoy life together.

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Jesus says: “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... My sheep hear My voice and follow Me and I give them eternal life.... No one can snatch them out of My hand.”

John 10

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