

The Important Role of Elders

Selected Scripture

(series #78)

The Various Titles for Elders in the Scripture

They are called "bishops" or "overseers" - Philippians 1:1

They are called "elders" and "bishops" ("overseers") Titus 1:5,7

They are described as elders, bishops, pastors - Acts 20:17, 28

Elder refers to the spiritual maturity of the person

Bishop or overseer refers to the office

Pastor or shepherd refers to the ministry

The Prominence of Elders in the Book of Acts

They had the responsibility of the oversight of finances
11:27-30

Their appointment was a priority in every church 14:21-23

Paul didn't appoint men to leadership until they were
ready

Some can be ready in a relatively short period of time

There were elders (plural) in every church (singular)

Their development was a priority in Paul's ministry

They made decisions about the life and doctrine of the church

Acts 15:1-6

I Timothy 5:17

The Function of Elders as Described in Scripture

To Be Examples to the Flock

Acts 20:28 "Take heed to yourselves..."

I Timothy 4:16

I Timothy 3 and Titus 1

To Shepherd (Feed and Lead) the Flock

Acts 20:20, 27

John 21:15-17

I Peter 5:1-4

I Timothy 3:4-5

Hebrews 13:17