



1

Lead ↔ Follow

- It is impossible to lead without first being a follower.
- There is a distinct pattern for church leadership in the Bible.
- The elders are the spiritual leaders of the church who are in charge of our spiritual growth, development, protection, and cast the vision for the church (Ac 20:17-35).
- Today we are going to look at the function of what a Biblical Elder by looking at the titles that they are called in the Bible.

2

The Practical Function = Elder

- The Greek word -πρεσβύτερος - presbuteros (pres-boo'-ter-os) "old man" - It is an indication of his maturity of faith.
- Hebrew Elders (Nu 11:16; Ex 3:16; Pr 31:23)
- Council of Elders - Sanhedrin (In Jesus' day)
- Church elders = assisted the apostles in making decisions, sent people out under their authority by laying on hands, gave advice and had authority to judge disputes.
- Elders are wise and mature believers in Christ sit and discuss how they can add value to the community of believers.



3

The Pastoral Function = Shepherd

- The Greek word ποιμήν - poimén (poy-mane'): Shepherd
- Paul reminds the elders of this function in Acts 20:28
- Function: individual care that a shepherd gives his sheep.
- Workers for the Good Shepherd: Psalm 23:1; John 10:14; Jn 21:15-17.
- The pastoral function of elder requires love and care! (Mt 9:36; Mk 6:34; Ep 4:11-13)
- Shepherds skillfully tend sheep. Elders are compassionate and caring leaders who are gifted in caring for each member of the flock.



4

The Personal Function = Overseer

- The Greek word ἐπίσκοπος- episkopos (ep-is'-kop-os) -Overseers
- Function: attention and caregiving to the individuals of the body
- Episkopos Literally means "look intently upon" ... Keep an eye on the the flock... Supervisor.
- The Overseer function of the elder is a noble task with serious implications (1 Tm 3:3; James 3:1).
- Lead by kind example (1 Peter 5:2-3).
- OVERSEERS are watchers. Elders keep watch over our lives, assess where we are, and help us to get to where we ought to be.



5

You must follow...

- Leaders who lead well know how to follow Jesus.
- There is no way to be a successful Christian leader without first walking in the footsteps of Jesus.
- We want to invite everyone you to be a follower of Jesus today.



6

