

The Formation and Function of the Church
Lesson 11

The Role of Elders in the Church

1. Defining our Terms
 - A. *Presbuteros* – maturity of spiritual experience
 - B. *Episkopoi* – the nature of their work; overseers
 - C. References
 1. Eph.4:11
 2. 1 Peter 5:1-2
 3. Acts 20:28
 4. Acts 14:23

2. What elders are and are not
 - A. Not selected on the basis of their executive skills
 - B. Qualifications for identification (see Identification of Qualified Church leaders)
 1. Personal qualifications – demanding high moral character
 2. Family life – must be in accord with God's order portrayed throughout the Scripture
 3. Relations to others – personal characteristics which are involved in interpersonal relationships contained in Scripture
 4. Relationship to the faith – not a novice and able to teach
 - C. References
 1. 1 Timothy 3:1-7
 2. Titus 1:6-9
 3. 1 Timothy 5:17
 4. Acts 20:17,28
 5. Hebrews 13:17
 6. Philippians 2:2,3
 7. Romans 12:16
 8. James 2:1
 9. Hebrews 13:7,17

D. Elders are not to operate on majority rule but to be unanimous in all decisions

1. 1 Corinthians 1:10
2. Philippians 1:27
3. Ephesians 4:3-6
4. Philippians 2:2
5. Romans 15:5,6
6. Hebrews 13:7

3. The Five Priorities for Elders – Acts 20:28-35

- A. To keep right with God
- B. To feed and lead the flock
- C. To warn and watch – to protect the flock
- D. To pray and study
- E. To be free from self-interest