

Noble Leadership: Elders in a Biblically Shaped Church

1 Timothy 3:1-7

An overview:

"1 Timothy" is a _____, not a disjointed collection of theological _____ . So, we read it (and interpret it) accordingly.

"Elder", "overseer", and "pastor" are used _____ .

An elder is not a separate class of Christian (_____ v. _____).

He is to be an _____ Christian.

Elders are Biblically _____ (Old Testament)

1. Already in place before the Egyptian captivity (Genesis 50:7)
2. _____ during the captivity (Exodus 3:16)
3. Made _____ under Moses (Exodus 24:1ff)

Elders are Biblically _____ (New Testament)

1. Elders were put in place in _____ church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
2. There was a _____ of elder leadership in each location (Acts 20:17)
3. They were/are exclusively _____ (1 Timothy 2:12)
4. There is a clear distinction between elders and _____ . (Philippians 1:1)

Elders are _____ to the church:

1. Churches with elders better _____ biblical authority and accountability.
2. Churches with elders are better _____ from abusive or immoral leadership.
3. Churches with elders are less likely to _____ off into doctrinal error.
4. Churches with elders are less likely to do _____ things.
5. Churches with elders are better able to lead with _____ .
6. Churches with elders are better able to solve serious _____ .
7. Churches with elders are more likely to be stable and _____ .
8. Churches with elders are better able to experience the giftings and insights of multiple teachers.
9. Churches with elders are more comprehensively _____ for.
10. Churches with elders are better able to _____ new elders and share them with other churches.

A summary:

- 1) Elders lead by _____ .
- 2) Elders labor by _____ .
- 3) Elders love by _____ .
- 4) Elders live with _____ .

A Conclusion:

The Bible teaches that elders are to _____ the Word, set a _____ for the flock, and _____ the affairs of the church (1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Pet. 5:3; 1 Tim. 5:17).

Scripture therefore calls all Christians to _____ and _____ to the leaders of our churches, who in turn are _____ to God for how they lead (Heb. 13:17) and _____ for them (Hebrews 13:18).

What this demands most from the church is _____ .

What if I don't/can't trust the elders at CBC?