

# UNPACKING THE CHURCH: *CLEARING UP CONFUSION*

## UNDERSTANDING CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### Offices of the Church: Elders

#### 1. The Work of Elders

##### a. Terms used

- i. “Elder” = πρεσβύτερος (presbuteros)
- ii. “Overseer” [Bishop] = ἐπίσκοπος, (episkopos)

##### b. Essential responsibilities

**See Handout**

#### 2. The Qualifications for Elders

1 Timothy 3:1-7      Titus 1:5-9      1 Peter 5:1-3

- a. Aspiration/desire/not under compulsion/calling
- b. Affirmed by the church (Agreement with calling)
- c. Above reproach
- d. One woman man
- e. Temperate
- f. Prudent/Self-controlled
- g. Respectable
- h. Hospitable
- i. Able to teach

Able to discern between truth and false teaching and able to give a defense of the doctrines of the church against such.

- j. Not given to drunkenness

- k. Not violent
- l. Gentle
- m. Not quarrelsome
- n. Not a lover of money
- o. Manages his household well
- p. Children are under control

“Faithful” children (cf. Titus 1:6)

Children that are not incorrigible, rebellious, or reckless

- q. Not immature in the faith
- r. A good reputation outside the church
- s. Not self-willed
- t. Not quick tempered
- u. Loves what is good
- v. Just and upright
- w. Devout
- x. Disciplined

### 3. The Number of Elders

“Elders” is always plural unless the context demands a singular noun.

Acts 14:23; 15:2; 20:17 (note that “church” is singular)

1 Timothy 5:17 (note that v 19 demands a singular)

Titus 1:5 (note that “city” is singular)

James 5:14 (note that “church” is singular)

1 Peter 5:1 (note the exceptional use of the singular)