

* the elder must be an able **TEACHER**

#1317 διδακτικός *didaktikos*
= apt and skilful in teaching

1. he must have the spiritual gift of teaching God's word since he is responsible to:
 - a) equip the flock for the work of service
 - b) bring them to spiritual maturity, to Christlikeness
 - c) exhort them in sound doctrine
→ only the truth brings real and lasting change, encouragement spiritual development and growth
 - d) refute and correct those who oppose the truth
2. he must hold fast the faithful word
→ he must study it, know it, believe it and live it ... so he can teach it to others
(1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:9; Eph 4:11-13)

* the elder is God's **STEWARD**

#3623 οικονόμος *oikonomos*
= one to whom the head of a house has entrusted the entire care of all that is his

He has been given the responsibility to:

1. keep watch over the souls of believers
#69 ἀγρυπνέω *agrupneo*
= to be sleepless, attentive
= continuous and wakeful concern

2. shepherd the flock of God by feeding, leading and protecting the believers
3. oversee the welfare of the church under his care; he is his church's guardian or watchman to see that all is done rightly

As a manager of God's church he will give an account before God of his stewardship

(Heb 13:17; Acts 20:28)

- * the elder is to be an **EXAMPLE** to the flock
- he must lead a life worthy of following
 - he must do it, not greedily but according to the will of God, voluntarily and eagerly

(1 Pet 5:1-4)

In the light of such a high calling, such sobering responsibility and accountability, the assembly of believers is instructed:

1. to appreciate the elders who labour
#1492 οἶδα *eido*
= to see, to notice, to discern
= to know, to recognize
→ have a thorough knowledge of biblical teaching about eldership
2. in love to esteem them very highly
→ hold them in the highest regard

(1 Thess 5:12-13)

3. to consider worthy of double honour those elders who
 - rule well
 - work hard at preaching and teaching

(1 Tim 5:17- 18)

4. to obey and submit to their leaders

#3982 ἐπισεύω, πείθω *peitho*
= to be persuaded, yield to, comply with

#5226 ὑπέικω *hupeiko*
= to yield to authority

→ the saints are accountable to the elders; the elders are accountable to Jesus the Chief Shepherd

(Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:4)

5. to imitate the faith of their leaders considering the result of their conduct

(Heb 13:7)

6. to discipline elders who fall into sin properly
Proper discipline requires

- a) factual evidence from 2 or 3 witnesses
- b) public rebuke, in the presence of all
- c) impartiality, without any bias

(1 Tim 5:19-21)