

## Appoint Elders In Every City 5043

### I. Introduction

- A. Acts 14:21–23—Appointment of *elders* marked transition from “disciples” to “church” (Greek: *ekklesia*), which denotes *government* (compare Acts 19:32, 39, 41). Accompanied by *prayer and fasting*.
- B. Acts 13:1–3—Sending out of *apostles* likewise the outcome of *prayer and fasting*. *Apostles* (inter-church) and *elders* (within a local church) together are the *governing agents* of God’s people, with a delicate balance of authority between them, possible only through God’s *grace* (compare: Husband and wife).
- C. Acts 20:17, 28—Three descriptive words:
  - 1. Qualification: *Elder*—implies *maturity*
  - 2. Job: *Overseer*—i.e., Foreman, Supervisor
  - 3. Ministry: *Shepherds*
- D. Tit. 1:5—Until elders are appointed, something has been “left unfinished”

### II. Qualifications Of Elders

- A. Tit. 1:6–9—Four main areas: 1 Tim. 3:1–7
  - 1. Personal holiness: Above reproach – blameless – self-controlled (compare 2 Pet. 1:5–7)
  - 2. Family in order: Hospitable—manage his own home
  - 3. Spiritual equipment: thorough grasp of basic gospel truths—able to transmit them
  - 4. Respect of local community
- B. Also, not a new convert

### III. Functions Of Elders

- A. *Overseers*—manage, administrate (Acts 20:28)
- B. *Shepherds*—a caring heart (compare Ps. 23, especially v. 4)
- C. *Rule*—govern (1 Tim. 5:17)
- D. *Teach*—basic, practical, down-to-earth
- E. *Speak God’s Word*—the “now” word to a given congregation (Heb. 13:7)
- F. *Set an example of faith*—challenge God’s people
- G. *Watch over souls*—especially in prayer (Heb. 13:17)

### IV. Appointment Of Elders

- A. Acts. 20:28—The initiative is with God, the *Holy Spirit*. Compare the New Testament picture of Paul’s apostleship:
  - 1. Father → Son → Holy Spirit → Human ministry
  - 2. *Recognition* in the church makes *calling* fully effective
- B. Acts 14:23—Paul and Barnabas were the *human instruments* of the *Holy Spirit*
- C. Tit. 1:5—Titus, carrying out apostolic responsibility, was to appoint elders

### V. Responsibilities Of The Congregation

- A. *Remember*—especially in prayer (Heb. 13:7)
- B. *Imitate*
- C. *Obey*—outward act (Heb. 13:17)
- D. *Submit*—inner attitude (it is possible to be *submissive* even when *not obeying*)

- (compare Acts 5:29)
- E. *Honor* (1 Tim. 5:17–18)
  - F. *Support financially* (There is a *financial aspect* to scriptural *honor*)—compare Prov. 3:9; Matt. 15:3–6; Acts 28:10

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