

# Leadership in God's Word

## Acts 6:1-7

- First church conflict
- Apostles didn't leave their primary work to feed the widows
- Apostles called a meeting of the church to select seven men to solve the problem
- The multitude selected the special servants to do the work
- The apostles appointed them
- The multitude was pleased. The problem had been solved. They selected the special servants.
- The church continued to grow

## Acts 14:21-23

- Paul and Barnabas had preached the gospel and established several churches
- They went back to visit each one and
  - Strengthened the souls of the disciples
  - Exhorted them to continue in the faith
  - Told them that they would endure tribulation
  - Appointed elders in every church
- It doesn't say Paul and Barnabas selected them. They appointed them.  
To elect to an office by lifting up the hand; to choose, vote; to appoint to an office; It means to elect through a show of hands by an assembly (Logos, Strong's 5500)  
to formally appoint or assign someone to a particular task—'to appoint, to assign.'  
to formally appoint or assign someone to a particular task—'to appoint, to assign.' 'in each church they appointed elders for them' Act 14:23. In Ac 14:23 χειροτονέω may, however, be understood in the meaning of 'to choose or elect to office by the raising of hands' (Logos, Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A., 37.103)

## Acts 20:17-38

- Wanted to meet with the elders of the church
- Notice that 'elders' is always plural, referring to more than one. We don't read of the elder of a church, always more than one
- Reviews his service with them
- Tells them this is their last meeting
- Told them their responsibilities and warned them of dangers that would come
- Notice verse 28
  - These elders were overseers
  - They were to shepherd the church
    - Elder
    - Overseer
    - Shepherd
- Problems in the church would arise out of the eldership

- The elders and this preacher had a close, loving relationship with each other. That happens when people spend time with each other, respect each other, and appreciate each other in their roles and relationship.

#### 1 Timothy 3:1-13

- We call these the qualifications of elders and deacons
- Verse 1 is an observation, not a qualification. To make that a qualification is to miss great leaders in God's work. To make a rule to talk to a man before suggesting him to be considered as an overseer may miss some of the best men in the congregation.
  - Moses. Exodus 3
  - Gideon. Judges 6:11-16
  - Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:4-8
- We don't need leaders who think they are strong enough and wise enough to be leaders, but leaders who believe that God is with them and will help them in all He wants them to do.

#### Titus 1:5-11

- Titus was to "set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city." It doesn't say he selected them. He appointed them.
  - to assign to someone a position of authority over others— 'to put in charge of, to appoint, to designate.' (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. 37.104)

#### 1 Peter 5:1-4

- Elders
- Shepherd
- Overseer

If you don't have elders, overseers, shepherds, what can you do? If you don't have a garden, plant one.

#### Ephesians 4:11-16

- Are you an evangelist, pastor (shepherd), or teacher?
- Your job isn't to do all the work in the church but to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.
- A healthy body (church) is one where the **whole** body is connected by what **every** joint supplies, the effective working by which **every** part does its share, which causes growth for building itself in love.

## How does a leader grow to become and grow as

### 1. An Elder?

- An elder is an older man.

not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

- But it takes more than getting old.
- The keyword is **WISDOM**. To get wisdom:
  - Pray for it. James 1:5
  - Work for it. Proverbs 2:1-5
  - Wisdom teaches to avoid the wicked woman and select a good wife/ Proverbs 2:16-22; Proverbs 18:22
  - One way to increase wisdom is to accept, invite, and enjoy criticism. Psalm 139:33, 34

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,  
but he who hates reproof is stupid. — Proverbs 12:1

A fool always loses his temper,  
But a wise man holds it back. — Proverbs 29:11, NASB

## 2. An Overseer?

- The keyword is **DELEGATION**.
- This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. — 1 Timothy 3:1
- *The Motive: Why So Many Leaders Abdicate Their Most Important Responsibilities*, by Patrick M. Lencioni. Many CEOs believe they have been rewarded for their hard work and can now dictate to others what to do, unaware that hard work and pain await them.
- Some men who are selected as elders think they have been rewarded for good attendance and success in their work. Now they can make decisions and enjoy the power they've been given.
- The apostles were good overseers.

Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them. — Acts 6:4, NIV

## 3. A Shepherd?

- The keyword is **HUMILITY**. 1 Peter 5:1-7
- Without humility, leaders can be drowned by resentment and bitterness.
- Often felt by good people.
- The Messiah trap. (from *When Helping You Is Hurting Me*, by Carmen Renee Berry, pp. 8, 9
  - “If I don’t do it, it won’t get done.”
  - “Everyone else’s needs take priority over mine.”