

# The Appointment of Elders



Owl Hollow church - 2025

# An OT Tradition

- Exodus 3: 14-22
  - Moses is told to “gather the elders” to tell them who was sending him (vs 16)
  - Moses is told to bring the elders of Israel with him when meeting Pharaoh (vs 18)
- Exodus 18: 17-27
  - Moses appointed judges to help him judge the people of Israel
  - First instance of qualifications (vs 21-23)
- Numbers 11: 10-17; 24-25
  - God tells Moses to “gather 70 men of the elders of Israel” to “help carry the burden of the people” with him (vs 16)
  - These men were given of “the Spirit that was upon” Moses (vs 25)



# Appointment of Elders and Deacons in the NT

- Appointment of Elders
  - Acts 11:30
    - The first mention of “elders” in Scripture, who were serving the church in Jerusalem
  - Acts 14:21-23
    - Paul and Barnabas appointed “elders” on their missionary journeys in Asia
  - Titus 1:5
    - Titus is told to appoint elders in every city



# Qualifications for Elders

## 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- Above reproach (anepileptos)
- Married only once
- Temperate
- Sensible
- Respectable
- Hospitable (philoxenos)
- An apt teacher
- Not a drunkard or violent
- Gentle (epieikes)
- Not quarrelsome or a lover of money
- Must manage his own household well
- Must not be a recent convert
- Must be well thought of by outsiders

## Titus 1:6-9

- Blameless
- Married only once
- Children are believers
- Must not be arrogant, quick-tempered, addicted to wine, violent or greedy for gain
- Hospitable and a lover of goodness
- Prudent (sophron)
- Upright (kosmios)
- Devout and self-controlled
- Must have a firm grasp of the word
- Able to preach with sound doctrine
- Able to refute those who contradict sound doctrine

# A Good Elder = A Good Shepherd

1 Peter 5:2-4

2 tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. 3 Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

