



## ***1 Peter 5:1-4 (ESV)***

**1 Peter 5:1** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup>not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

### **WHAT IS A CHURCH?**

The local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

In obedience to scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of Baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy.

*(Taken from Vintage Church, Mark Driscoll and Gerry Breshears)*

1. Regenerated church membership
2. Qualified leadership
3. Gathering for preaching and worship
4. Observing the biblical ordinances of Baptism and Communion
5. Spiritual unity
6. Holiness
7. The Great Commandment to Love

8. The Great Commission to make more disciples of Jesus through the Gospel.

### **WHAT IS BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP?**

**Acts 14:23** And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**Titus 1:5** This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you

**1 Timothy 3:1** The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

### **WHAT DO ELDERS DO?**

- A. provide overall direction (*1 Timothy 5:17*)
- B. teach Biblical truth (*Titus 1:9a*)
- C. model Christlike behavior (*1 Timothy 3, Titus 1*)
- D. preserve sound doctrine (*Acts 20:30-31; Titus 1:9b*)
- E. discipline rebellious believers (*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*)
- F. oversee financial matters (*Acts 11:30*)
- G. pray for those who are ill (*James 5:13-16*)

### **BIBLE READING PLAN**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Psalm 132 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thu.: Psalm 136 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mon.: Psalm 133 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fri.: Psalm 137 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tue.: Psalm 134 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.: Romans 1  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wed.: Psalm 135 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Romans 2  |