

Leadership in the assembly

What is a pastor?

- **Poimen** – Used 18 times in the NT – KJV
 - Translated, 'shepherd(s)' 17 times
 - Translated 'pastor' 1 time (Eph. 4:11)
- What is a local pastor?
 - It is a gift, not an office – Eph. 4:8-11
 - It is to the church universal, not locally – Eph. 4:12-16
 - Every believer has some gift to be used of the Lord – Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4
 - A pastor is one who has a shepherd's touch for being sensitive to the needs of others: helping, counseling, guiding, and encouraging. Such a person may or may not also have a gift for teaching or evangelizing (although all are to do the work of an evangelist).
- One who has the gift of 'pastor' exercises that gift wherever he goes. As the Lord leads, he may have opportunity to use his gift in the local assembly, but the gift is for the whole body of Christ. This one may use this gift in his neighborhood, in hospitals, nursing homes, among friends and neighbors, assemblies across the world.

What is an elder?

- The word 'elder' is used interchangeably with 'bishop' – Titus 1:5-7
 - Elder (presbuteros – elderly, a senior) – refers to the person
 - Bishop (episkopos – superintendent, overseer) – refers to the work of the elder
- Qualifications of the elder
 - 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

Note: There are no qualifications listed for a pastor. This is a gift given as the Lord sees fit.

- Elders are always mentioned in the plural. No single man exercised oversight of an assembly...always more than one.
- Appointment of elders
 - Acts 20:17-28 – The Lord appoints elders, but has used others to declare this appointment
 - Acts 6:1-3; Acts 14:19-23 – The apostles appointed deacons and elders
 - Titus 1:5 – Those deputized by Paul appointed elders
 - We do not appoint elders but we should indeed recognize them by:

- Looking for opportunities to learn from teachers
- Seeking out the help of pastors when we need it
- Following the examples of godly leaders in the assembly (Phil 3:17)
- Supporting evangelists
- See Heb. 13:17-18

Note: There is not a single instance in scripture where an assembly appointed their own elders.

Who are our elders?

- If we do not appoint elders, how do we know who our elders are?
 - One who has a desire to be an overseer
 - 1Timothy 3:1 – “The word is faithful: if any one aspires to exercise oversight, he desires a good work.” (JND Translation)
 - One who has pure motives to lead
 - 1Peter 5:1-4
 - One who has met the qualifications of an elder/bishop
 - 1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:4-9
- When one exhibits all of the above qualifications and desire, we will recognize that and submit ourselves to their oversight as the Lord leads them in wisdom and truth.