

# Introduction

What does the  
Scripture say?

Romans 4:3

**Pre-test:**

**(Answer questions 1 and 2)**

**11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.**

**Acts 17:11**

**A little terminology...**

**Ecclesiology: The doctrine of the church describes the character and activities of the community of the redeemed in the present age.**

**Polity: Church polity describes the way in which a church arranges and orders itself in matters of governance and organization.**

**“Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY  
& TTYL mean?”**



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**“I Don’t Know, Love You &  
Talk To You Later.”**

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**“I Don’t Know, Love You &  
Talk To You Later.”**

**“It’s ok, don’t worry about  
it. I’ll ask your sister, love  
you too.”**

# **1. Biblical Church Leadership**

- 1. Biblical Church Leadership**
  - A. Restoration & Clarification**

# **Board vs Shepherd Elders**

## **Biblical Elders**

They think of elders as policymakers, fundraisers, decision-makers, or advisors to the pastor. I call them “board elders.” Many Christians don’t expect church elders to teach the Scriptures or be involved pastorally in the lives of their people, although their own Bibles teach exactly that.

**Strauch, A. (n.d.). (p. 11). Biblical Eldership Resources.**

# Biblical Elders

**According to the New Testament, elders jointly pastor the church, teach the word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish believers in sound doctrine, pray with the sick, and judge doctrinal issues. In biblical terminology, elders shepherd, oversee, lead, manage, and care for the local church. I call them *shepherd elders*, or *pastoral elders*, or *pastor elders*.**

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- 1. Biblical Church Leadership**
  - A. Restoration & Clarification**
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine**



- 1. Biblical Church Leadership**
  - A. Restoration & Clarification**
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine**
    - Plainly revealed in Scripture**

# Answer to Pre-Test #1

# 5. The Lord's Day

5. The Lord's Day
4. The Lord's Supper

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3. Baptism

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2. Spiritual gifts

5. The Lord's Day
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3. Baptism
2. Spiritual gifts
1. Elders

1. Biblical Church Leadership
  - A. Restoration & Clarification
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine
    - Plainly revealed in Scripture
    - Pattern of plural elders in the first churches



**<sup>30</sup> This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.**

**Acts 11:30**

**14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.**

**James 5:14–15**

**<sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.**

**Acts 15:2**

**18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present.**

**Acts 21:18**

**23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.**

**Acts 14:23**

**17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.**

**Acts 20:17**

**<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ  
Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at  
Philippi, together with the overseers and  
deacons:**

**Philippians 1:1**

<sup>5</sup> The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Titus 1:5



**<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, *scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...***

**<sup>1</sup> To *the elders among you*, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed...**

**1 Peter 1:1; 5:1**

**12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:12**

**17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.**

**Hebrews 13:17**

1. Biblical Church Leadership
  - A. Restoration & Clarification
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine
    - Plainly revealed in Scripture
    - Pattern of plural elders in the first churches
    - Instructions about elders given to the churches

# 1. Biblical Church Leadership

## A. Restoration & Clarification

## B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine

- Plainly revealed in Scripture
- Pattern of plural elders in the first churches
- Instructions about elders given to the churches
- Instruction & Exhortation directly to elders

1. Biblical Church Leadership
  - A. Restoration & Clarification
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine
  - C. Three Key Features of a Biblical Eldership
    - Pastoral Leadership

**28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.**

**Acts 20:28**

<sup>1</sup> To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:  
<sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

**1 Peter 5:1–2**



**“Unlike the corporate-business leadership model, shepherd leadership entails teaching the Scriptures, protecting from false teachers, evangelizing, counseling, caring for the many practical needs of the flock, and being with the people as examples of Christlike living.**

Shepherd leadership beautifully blends the concepts of authority and leadership with self-sacrifice, tender loving care, and intimate relationships. But even more, shepherd leadership patterns itself after the life of the “Good Shepherd” who willingly laid down his life for the sheep (John 10:11).”

- 1. Biblical Church Leadership**
  - A. Restoration & Clarification**
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine**
  - C. Three Key Features of a Biblical Eldership**
    - Pastoral Leadership**
    - Shared Leadership**

- 1. Biblical Church Leadership**
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    - Shared Leadership**

Although all elders share equally the same office, title, and pastoral charge, there is at the same time diversity in Spirit-giftedness, life experience, and the Lord's leading of each individual elder. Not all elders on an elder council are equally available or possess the same verbal skills, leadership ability, biblical knowledge, or competency to teach.

1. Biblical Church Leadership
  - A. Restoration & Clarification
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine
  - C. Three Key Features of a Biblical Eldership
    - Pastoral Leadership
    - Shared Leadership
    - Qualified Leadership

**“...the New Testament provides more instruction on the qualifications for eldership than on any other aspect of eldership.”**

### 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. Above reproach
2. Husband of one wife
3. Sober-minded
4. Self-controlled
5. Respectable
6. Hospitable
7. Able to teach
8. Not a drunkard
9. Not violent
10. Gentle
11. Not quarrelsome
12. Not a lover of money
13. Manages his own household well ... children submissive
14. Not a recent convert
15. Well thought of by outsiders

### Titus 1:6-9

1. Above reproach
2. Husband of one wife
3. Children are believers [faithful]
4. Not arrogant
5. Not quick-tempered
6. Not a drunkard
7. Not violent
8. Not greedy for gain
9. Hospitable
10. A lover of good
11. Self-controlled
12. Upright
13. Holy
14. Disciplined
15. Holds firm to the trustworthy word as taught

- Able to give instruction in sound doctrine

- Able to rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine

### 1 Peter 5:1-5

1. Not under compulsion
2. Willingly
3. Not for shameful gain
4. Eagerly
5. Not domineering
6. Example to the flock



1. So, why call it “Biblical Church Leadership”?
  - A. Restoration & Clarification
  - B. Thoroughly Biblical Doctrine
  - C. Three Key Features of a Biblical Eldership
  - D. Putting Things in Perspective

1. The Single-Elder-Led Church  
(Congregational/Single-Elder-Led Polity)
2. The Presbytery-Led Church
3. The Congregation-Led Church:  
Congregational Polity
4. The Bishop-Led Church: The Episcopal or  
Anglican Polity
5. The Plural-Elder-Led Church

**Acts 14:23**

**Acts 20:17–38**

**Philippians 1:1**

**1 Timothy 3:1–7**

**1 Timothy 5:17–25**

**Titus 1:5–9**

**James 5:14–15**

**1 Peter 5:1–5**

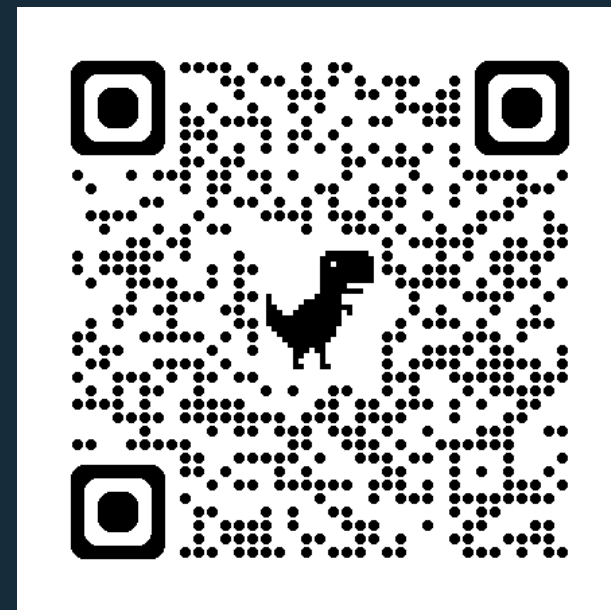
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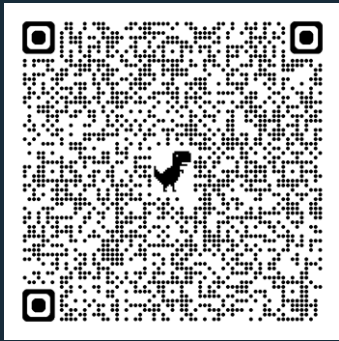


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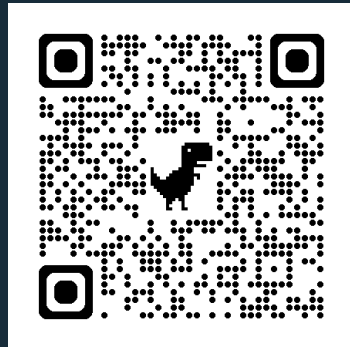


Biblical Eldership  
Website

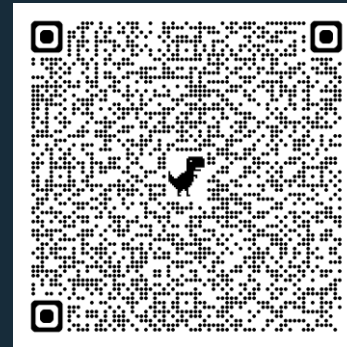
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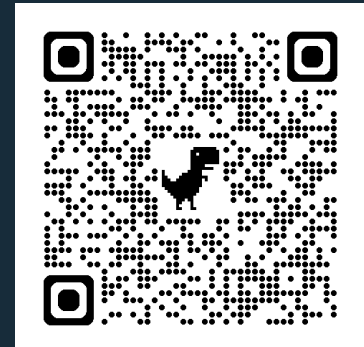
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