

**“Mark #9- Biblical Leadership”**

**What is it?**

The Bible teaches that each local church should be led by a plurality of godly, qualified men called elders.

**Where is it in the Bible?**

Paul lays out the qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Passages that evidence a plurality of elders in one local church include Acts 14:23, Acts 20:17, 1 Timothy 4:14, 1 Timothy 5:17, and James 5:14.

**Why is it important?**

- Biblical church leadership is important because, without it, God’s people are like sheep without shepherds.
  - Church structure helps us shepherd the flock of God well.
  - Church structure helps us to advance the mission of God well.

**Two Biblical Offices: Elders and Deacons**

Elders = Servant **Leaders**.

Deacons = Leading **Servants**.

**Elders: Servant Leaders of the Church (Acts 20:28-32)**

- Elders **lead** under the authority of Christ.
  - Elders belong to the **church**.
  - The church belongs to **Christ**.
- Elders **care** for the body of Christ.
  - Elders protect the church.
  - Elders nurture the church.
- Elders **teach** the word of Christ.
  - Elders must know God’s Word extensively.
  - Elders must communicate God’s Word effectively.
- Elders **model** the character of Christ.
  - The Primary Question: What will happen if the church imitates this leader?
    - In his personal life...
    - In his family life...
    - In his business and social life...
    - In his spiritual life...

**What are the Benefits of a Plurality of Elders?**

- Biblical accountability
- **Wisdom**
- **Balance**
- Burden sharing
- Sets an example for the church

**Deacons: Leading Servants of the Church (Acts 6:1-7)**

- Deacons **meet needs** according to the Word.
  - They arise from specific circumstances.
  - They assume accountability for specific commands.
- Deacons **support** the ministry of the Word.
  - Deacons **serve** elders so they can lead.
  - Deacons **lead** others so they can serve.
- Deacons **unify** the body around the Word.
  - Deacons demonstrate a **Christlike** character with a **mission** mindset.

**Biblical Church Leaders are a Blessing, Not a Burden to the Church**

- Church leaders **exalt** Christ as they display His love for the church.
- Church leaders **equip** and enable the Church to accomplish our mission in the world.

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