

**Titus 1:5:** “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.”

## 2. Elders Are Entrusted With \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church (1 Timothy 3:1; Acts 20:28).

- Oversight involves \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Household (1 Timothy 3:14-15, 5; 5:17; Titus 1:7; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

**1 Timothy 3:14-15:** “...I am writing you these instructions so that, **15** if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

**Titus 1:7:** “Since an overseer manages God’s household...”

**1 Timothy 5:17:** “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor...”

- Oversight involves \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 5:17).

**1 Timothy 5:17:** “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”

**2 Timothy 4:1-5:** “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **2** Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. **3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5** But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

- Oversight involves \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 5:2; James 5:13-16; Ezekiel 34).

**1 Peter 5:2:** “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them...”

**James 5:13-16:** “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be

forgiven. **16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

**Ezekiel 34:1-6:** “The word of the Lord came to me: **2** “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? **3** You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. **4** You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. **5** So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. **6** My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.”

- Oversight involves \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 1:3,18; Titus 1:9).

**Acts 20:28-31:** “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. **29** I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. **30** Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. **31** So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”

## 3. Elders Are to Be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3:2-7).

**1 Timothy 3:2-7:** “Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to **his wife**, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** **He** must manage **his** own family well and see that **his** children obey **him**, and **he** must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage **his** own family, how can **he** take care of God’s church?). **6** **He** must not be a recent convert, or **he** may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7** **He** must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that **he** will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.”

## 4. Elders Are \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 5:17).

**1 Timothy 5:17:** “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **18** For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

**1 Corinthians 9:7-14:** “Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? **8** Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? **9** For it is written in the Law of Moses: “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Is it about oxen that God is concerned? **10** Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. **11** If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? **12** If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. **13** Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? **14** In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**Hebrews 13:7:** “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

**Hebrews 13:17:** “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What did you learn that was new to you?
2. How does the religious culture of Utah use the word 'elder'? How is this different than the Biblical usage of the word?
3. Eldership is described in the N.T. by using the words elder, shepherd and overseer (see Acts 20:17, 28-31). What do these words mean? How do they highlight different aspects of the role?
4. What did Paul say to the elders of the church of Ephesus in Acts 20:28-31? Did it come to pass (1 Timothy 1:3, 20; 5:19-20)? How does this background help us to understand why Paul wrote to Timothy about the qualifications for elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7)?
5. What are the qualifications required for those who want to be elders (See 1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:5-9)? Do elders need to be perfect?
6. Some compare bishops in the LDS church with Pastors/Preaching Elders in the Christian church and assume they are the same? How are they different? Should a Pastor/Preaching Elder receive compensation (1 Tim.5:17; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14)?

## Series: God's Blueprint for the Church Today: “Shepherds of the Flock of God”

1 Timothy 3:1

Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 12.04.11

### Introduction:

**Acts 20:17:** “From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for *the elders of the church.*”

**Acts 20:28-31:** “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. **29** I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. **30** Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. **31** So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”

### 1. Elders Are \_\_\_\_\_ to Serve the Church (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1).

## THE PROCESS OF APPOINTMENT

- Appointment is a work of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1).

**Acts 20:28:** “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which *the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.*”

**1 Timothy 3:1:** “Here is a trustworthy saying: *Whoever aspires* to be an overseer *desires* a noble task.”

- Appointment is for those who are \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 5:2).

**1 Peter 5:2:** “Be shepherds of God's flock...—*not because you must, but because you are willing,* as God wants you to be...”

- Appointment is a work of other \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).

**Acts 14:23:** “*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.”