

Elders

Exo 18:1 Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

Exo 18:2 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Moses' wife Zipporah, after he had sent her away,

Exo 18:3 and her two sons, of whom one was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

Exo 18:4 The other was named Eliezer, for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."

Exo 18:5 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was camped, at the mount of God.

Exo 18:6 He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her."

Exo 18:7 Then Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and he bowed down and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent.

Exo 18:8 Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had befallen them on the journey, and how the LORD had delivered them.

Exo 18:9 Jethro rejoiced over all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, in delivering them from the hand of the Egyptians.

Exo 18:10 So Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD who delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

Exo 18:11 "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people."

Exo 18:12 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law before God.

Exo 18:13 It came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening.

Exo 18:14 Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?"

Exo 18:15 Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God.

Exo 18:16 "When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws."

Exo 18:17 Moses' father-in-law said to him,
"The thing that you are doing is not good.

Exo 18:18 "You will surely wear out, both
yourself and these people who are with you,
for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot
do it alone.

Exo 18:19 "Now listen to me: I will give you
counsel, and God be with you. You be the
people's representative before God, and you
bring the disputes to God,

Exo 18:20 then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do.

Exo 18:21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

Exo 18:22 "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.

Exo 18:23 "If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace."

Exo 18:24 So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

Exo 18:25 Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

Exo 18:26 They judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge.

Exo 18:27 Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way into his own land.

Presumably, Jethro was older than Moses.

He gave fatherly advice to Moses.

It turned out to be good advice!

Rehoboam heard good advice from elders,
but rejected it.

1Ki 12:1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

1Ki 12:2 Now when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it, he was living in Egypt (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon).

1Ki 12:3 Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

1Ki 12:4 "Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

1Ki 12:5 Then he said to them, "Depart for three days, then return to me." So the people departed.

1Ki 12:6 King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you counsel me to answer this people?"

1Ki 12:7 Then they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

1Ki 12:8 But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him.

1Ki 12:9 So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

1Ki 12:10 The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!' But you shall speak to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!

1Ki 12:11 'Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

1Ki 12:12 Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, "Return to me on the third day."

1Ki 12:13 The king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him,

1Ki 12:14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

1Ki 12:15 So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn of events from the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

1Ki 12:16 When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; To your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

Rehoboam heard good advice from elders,
but rejected it.

How different things would be if he had
followed the advice of the elders!

By the way...

A young person can know as much or even more about the Bible as an elder...

...however, the young don't have the life experience to accompany their knowledge.

That's why God chose elders to be elders in His Church.

Act 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Act 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Act 20:31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Act 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Second Rule of an elder - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock.

First Rule of an elder - Don't cause a problem!

1Ti 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. (NASB)

1Ti 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. (KJV)

1Ti 3:1 It is a true statement that anyone whose goal is to serve as an elder has his heart set on a good work. (ERV)

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1Ti 3:1 It is a true statement that anyone whose goal is to serve as an **elder** has his heart set on a good work. (ERV)

Timothy

above reproach

the husband of one wife

temperate

prudent

respectable

hospitable

able to teach

not addicted to wine

not pugnacious

free from the love of money

Titus

above reproach

the husband of one wife

not quick-tempered,

self-controlled

sensible

not accused of rebellion

hospitable

able to exhort

in sound doctrine

not addicted to wine

not pugnacious

not fond of sordid gain

Timothy

manages his own

household well

keeps children under control

not a new convert

have a good reputation

gentle

peaceable

Titus

having children

who believe

loving what is good

just

devout

not accused of dissipation

not self-willed

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reproach - rebuke, criticism, disgrace, or shame.

*temperate - moderate in the indulgence of
the natural appetites or passions.*

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respectable

*prudent - careful, discreet, sensible, wise,
judicious, shrewd — opposed to rash*

*respectable - considered with high regard,
good opinion, honor, or admiration*

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rebellion - defiance of authority or control

*hospitable - cordial and generous towards
guests*

Timothy

Titus

exhort - to urge; to advise earnestly

*pugnacious - naturally aggressive or hostile;
combative; belligerent*

sordid - ignoble, vile, or contemptible.

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Timothy

*just - right, correct, upright, righteous,
equitable; fair*

*devout - devoted to God; pious; extremely
religious.*

Titus

loving what is good

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not accused of dissipation

not self-willed

Timothy

Titus

dissipation - A dissolute course of life, in which health, money, etc., are squandered in pursuit of pleasure

self-willed - obstinate; strong-minded; unyielding to the desires, concern or opinions of others.

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1Ti 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

1Ti 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1Ti 3:3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

1Ti 3:4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

1Ti 3:5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

1Ti 3:6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

1Ti 3:7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, Tit 1:6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

Tit 1:7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

Tit 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good,
sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,
Tit 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is
in accordance with the teaching, so that he
will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine
and to refute those who contradict.

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What should you do?

1. Choose one or more candidates that meet the qualifications.
2. Ask to the candidate if he is willing to serve in the capacity of an elder.
3. Submit the candidate's name in writing to myself or one of the deacons.
4. Do this before October 21st.

Then What?

1. The candidates will be evaluated.
2. If there are no Biblical objections, the candidate will be accepted.
3. The goal is to have new elders accepted by the first Sunday in November. If so, it will be announced from the pulpit.

Joh 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

Joh 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

Joh 14:4 "And you know the way where I am going."

Joh 14:5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.