

APPENDIX 1: ELDERS

According to scriptural precedent, elders are appointed by the ruling apostles and elders already recognized. The following scriptures define the role of elders in the local church. Caution: elders should be appointed after much prayer and affirmation by the Spirit of God. A growing church should not appoint elders too quickly.

1. PERSONAL MINISTRY TO THE LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS

James 5:13-15*New American Standard Bible (NASB)*

13 *Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, [a]anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer [b]offered in faith will [c]restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, [d]they will be forgiven him.*

2. LOCAL CHURCH OVERSIGHT

1 Tim 5

17 *The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard [a]at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*

3. ESTABLISHING POLICIES THROUGH THE EXAMINATION OF SCRIPTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Acts 15:5-7*New American Standard Bible (NASB)*

5 *But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." 6 The apostles and the elders came together to [a]look into this [b]matter.*

Acts 15:1-3*New American Standard Bible (NASB)*

15 *Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had [a]great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.*

Acts 16:3-5*New American Standard Bible (NASB)*

4 *Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. 5 So the churches were being strengthened [b]in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.*

4. OVERSIGHT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Acts 11:29-30*New American Standard Bible (NASB)*

29 *And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the [a]relief of the brethren living in Judea.***30** *And this they did, sending it [b]in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.*

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications for elders reflect this scriptural description.

Titus 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, 6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7 For the [d]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, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 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.*

REVIVAL PEOPLE CHURCHES BELIEVE THAT WOMEN SHOULD SERVE IN POSITIONS OF ELDERSHIP AND RULERSHIP. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE SUCCINCTLY SUPPORTS OUR POSITION REGARDING WOMEN IN LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP. (Refer to Appendix 6.)

PRINCIPLES IN APPOINTING ELDERS

1. Should have a good reputation in spiritual, business and family realms.
2. Should be recognized in the body as a servant hearted leader.
3. Should have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
4. Should have an understanding of the essential doctrines of the church Such as baptism, communion etc...
5. Should be slow to anger and humble in attitude.