

What Elders Wish The Church Knew About Elders

(Acts 20:28)

- Introduction:
1. Being an elder is not an easy job, but rather is a job that places one in a position of responsibility for another person's soul (Hebrews 13:17).
 2. Knowing this truth speaks volumes about the men who serve as elders for they must first "desire" the work (1 Timothy 3:1).
 3. (Matthew 12:25) Our need for understanding which promotes unity.
 4. In the interest of unity, let's examine what elders which the church knew about elders.

I. Elders Wish The Church Would Give Them The Benefit Of The Doubt

- A. (1 Timothy 3:1-7) The church has recognized them as mature men of wisdom and good judgment.
- B. Be slow to jump to conclusions about the elders and protect them when others do (1 Timothy 5:19).
- C. Elders are often privy to facts that will never see the light of day.
- D. If these men are unworthy of our trust, when we don't always understand their decisions, then we should not have appointed them elders in the first place.

II. Elders Wish The Church Would Recognize They Are Not The Opposition

- A. Too often, churches develop an "us" -vs- "them" mentality.
- B. Such an attitude will destroy the church (1 Corinthians 12:25).
- C. Their advice and correction should be heeded (Hebrews 13:17).

III. Elders Wish The Church Would Recognize That Responsibility For Faithfulness Is A Two-Way Street

- A. Elders certainly have an obligation to know and shepherd the flock (1 Peter 5:1-4; John 10:14).
- B. The church has just as much responsibility toward the elders (1 Thess. 5:12-13; John 10:4).
- C. The larger the church, the greater the responsibility is upon the elders *and* the church.

IV. Elders Wish The Church Knew What Their Job Is

- A. The term "bishop/overseer" is inclusive of decision making, but an elder's role is much broader than just decision making.
- B. (Ezekiel 34:1-4).
- C. Being an elder gives these men the right to get involved in your "personal life."

- Conclusion:
1. (Psalm 142:4).
 2. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).