



# Questions Often Asked

## *“More Questions Concerning The Eldership”*

- Introduction:
1. There are a number of questions that are frequently raised concerning the qualifications of elders.
  2. On one hand, you have some who would like to loosen the requirements, and on the other hand you have some who would like to add a few extra requirements of their own.
  3. Last week we discussed the authority of elders, and the qualifications “husband of one wife,” and “having his children in subjection.”
  3. Let’s go to the text tonight and let it answer our additional questions.

### **I. Can A Church Exist Without An Eldership?**

- A. A quick answer is “yes,” but there are other factors that must be considered in this question.
- B. God’s organizational structure for the church is set forth in the New Testament.
  1. Christ is head (Ephesians 1:22-23).
  2. Elders are rulers, overseers, and shepherds (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9).
  3. Deacons are special servants (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
  4. Saints or all Christians (Philippians 1:1).
- C. In order to properly answer this question, one must examine intent.
- D. A Church can be organized in one of the four following ways...
  1. Unscripturally Organized (Pope, diocese, Diotrephes...)
  2. Scripturally Organized (Elders, Deacons, Saints).
  3. Scripturally Unorganized (Young congregation like Acts 14:21-23).
  4. Unscripturally Unorganized (A congregation content with not having elders or deacons).

### **II. May Elders Receive A Salary From The Church?**

- A. Yes they may (1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- B. A paid elder could make a tremendous difference in the success of a church.
- C. While a preacher need not be supported by a congregation (1 Corinthians 9:1-14, we see the benefit of full support. Likewise that same benefit should be considered in view of the eldership.

### **III. How Should The Church Select Its Elders?**

- A. First, it must be remembered that we must never elevate our opinions to the level of Scripture.
  1. In matters of faith – unity; in matters of opinion – liberty; but in all things – love.
- B. I do not believe there is a single passage in the New Testament that prescribes a specific way to select elders.

- C. There are passages that are often referred to, however...
  - 1. (Acts 6:1-6).
  - 2. (Acts 14:23).
  - 3. (Acts 20:28).
  - 4. (Titus 1:5).
- D. The above passages all refer to the “appointment” or “ordination” of elders and not the “selection” of elders.
- E. Since there is no prescribe pattern to follow, churches are left to their own best judgment.
  - 1. Some have the congregation select the men and the elders approve or disapprove.
  - 2. Some have the elders select the men and the congregation approves or disapproves.
  - 3. Some vote and those who demonstrate they have the approval of the people by the amount of votes they have are selected.

- Conclusion:
- 1. We need to give great care to the organization of the church; for there is no more important institution in all the world.
  - 2. But at the same time, we also need to give great care that we do not press our opinions that are not taught from the text itself.
  - 3. The future of the church greatly depends on the quality of leaders it has.
  - 4. May we encourage our leaders and aspire to such a noble work.