

# 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).