

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

1. Principles of Leadership:

- Be Christ-like in mind and actions – Phil. 2:1-5
- Greatest must serve – Luke 22:24-26; John 13:12-15
- Be willing to serve, but not lording it over those entrusted to you; be an example – 1 Peter 5:1-3
- Be flexible, when warranted; consider what is best for all the group – 1 Cor. 9:22; 10:32-11:1
- It is a gift, but be diligent in using it – Rom. 12:6-8

2. Responsibilities of Congregation:

- Respect leaders and hold in high regard – 1 Thess. 5:12-13
- Obey and submit to their authority; they must give account of their actions; pray for them – Heb. 13:17-18; 1 Peter 5:5
- Avoid factions, following particular leaders – 1 Cor. 1:12-13

3. Functions of the Elders – three different words used, often in the same passage:

- “Elders” (*presbyteros*) -- age, experience, maturity (1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 20:17; 28-31)
- “Shepherds” (*poimenes*) -- leading, nurturing, guarding the flock
- “Overseers/Bishops” (*episcopos*) -- theological oversight, governance (1 Tim 5:17-19; Acts 15:1-2; 6; 23; Titus 1:9)

4. Functions of Evangelist:

- Study the Scriptures; preach the word; be prepared to correct, rebuke, and encourage – 2 Tim. 3:14 - 4:5

5. Functions of Servant Leaders/Deacons:

- Works of service to build up the church – Eph. 4:11-12
- Gifts of administration – 1 Cor. 12:28; Phil. 1:1
- Specific ministry tasks for the congregation – Acts 6:1-4; 1 Cor. 16:1-3

6. Selection Processes: [note plural group in each case]

- Examples of democratic processes – Acts. 1:21-26; Acts 6:2-6; 1 Cor. 16:3;
- Examples of autocratic processes – Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5
- Role of Holy Spirit – Acts 20:28

7. Lists of Qualifications for Elders (NRSV):

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Above reproach
Husband of but one wife
(or only married once)
Temperate
Hospitable
An apt teacher

Not a drunkard
Not violent, but gentle
Not quarrelsome
Not a lover of money
Manage his own household well;
children obedient/respectful
Not a recent convert
Well thought of
Respectable
Sensible

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Titus 1:5-9

Blameless
Husband of but one wife
(or only married once)
Self-controlled
Hospitable
Firm grasp of the word;
able both to preach and refute
Not addicted to wine
Not violent
Not quick-tempered
Not greedy for gain
Children are believers

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Not rebellious
Not arrogant
A lover of goodness
Prudent
Upright
Devout
Not accused of debauchery

For Servant Leaders/Deacons (only in 1Tim. 3:8-10; 12-13 and not Titus):

Worthy of respect: not indulging in much wine; not pursuing dishonest gain; holding the faith with clear conscience; must be first tested; husband of one wife; manages children and household well

A general summary of guiding principles from these lists might be as follows:

- A mature, experienced person
- A person of character and good reputation
- A proven leader and manager, especially in ones “household”
- A disciple who understands, practices, and effectively communicates the Christian faith.