

## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES ON CHURCH LEADERS (ESV)

### Role of Elder

The primary responsibility of an elder is to serve as a shepherd and caretaker of the church (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2)

- Oversee/guard the spiritual life of the church (Hebrews 13:17)
- Teach and preach (Titus 1:9, 1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Timothy 3:2)
- Exhort and refute (Titus 1:9)
- Determine church policy, final arbitrators of disputes (Acts 15:6)
- Ordain others (1 Timothy 4:14)
- Pray for the sick (James 5:14)
- Set the example (1 Peter 5:1-3)

### Qualifications of Elders – an Elder must be:

Qualification	Scriptural Reference
Willing	Hebrews 13:17, 1 Pet 5:2
Above reproach	1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:7
The husband of one wife	1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:6
Sober-minded	1 Tim 3:2
Self-controlled, disciplined	1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8
Respectable, upright, and holy	1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8
Hospitable	1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8
Able to teach	1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:9
Sober (not a drunkard)	1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7
Gentle (not violent)	1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7
Slow to anger (not quarrelsome or quick tempered)	1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7
Benevolent (not a lover of money, greedy)	1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7
A good manager of his own household	1 Tim 3:4-5, Titus 1:6
A mature Christian (not a recent convert)	1 Tim 3:6
Well thought of by outsiders	1 Tim 3:7
Humble (not arrogant or domineering)	Titus 1:7, 1 Pet 5:3
A lover of good	Titus 1:8
Someone who holds firm to the Word of God	Titus 1:9

### Acts 20:17-38

<sup>17</sup> Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup> And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **care for the church of God**, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted

things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

<sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

### 1 Peter 5:1-4

<sup>1</sup> So I exhort the **elders** among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> **shepherd the flock of God** that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

### Hebrews 13:17

Obey your **leaders** and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

### 1 Timothy 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer**, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Therefore an **overseer** must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

### 1 Timothy 5:17-22

<sup>17</sup> Let the **elders** who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." <sup>19</sup> Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them

in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. <sup>21</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. <sup>22</sup> Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

### Titus 1:5-9

<sup>5</sup> This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint **elders** in every town as I directed you— <sup>6</sup> if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. <sup>7</sup> For an **overseer**, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.