

Elders & Where We Are At

- Day of Pentecost --Acts 2.38 people were baptized “for the remission of sin”
- “The Lorded added to the church daily those who were being saved” Acts 3.47
 - Universal church --The Lord’s body, The bride of Christ, etc
- THE ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL CONGREGATION
- Heb 8:5 "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."
 - The local congregation --Saints in a city or area
 - Jerusalem, Samaria, Ephesus, etc

What pattern do we have concerning the “organization” and work of the local congregation?

Decisions had to be made

- Local congregations had to function for a time without elders
 - Acts 14 Paul goes through Iconium, Lystra, Antioch, Derbe
 - Making disciples --Acts 14:21

We read of various “elderships” in the Bible

Acts 11:30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

- What if men were not qualified or what did the congregations do before they had elders?
- Congregations did exist for a time without elders, Acts 14.6-7; 19
- God's design is for local congregations to have elders
- Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you--
- How were "elders" appointed, or selected?
- What criteria was used to determine who could serve?
- List of qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3.1-7, Titus 1.5-9, 1 Peter 5.
- What if no one met the qualification?
 - Too young, not married, no children, etc.

Patterns to avoid

- Unscripturally organized – unqualified elders, board of directors, rotating eldership, elders of one congregation overseeing another congregation
- Unscripturally unorganized – qualified men not serving as elders, we don't need an eldership
- Creation of a separate organization to supplant the local congregation
- Scriptural organization
- Scripturally unorganized – not having men qualified to serve as elders, Acts 14.23
- Scripturally organized, men qualified serving as elders, Phil. 1.1
- What we know, Acts 14.23

- Paul appointed men who were qualified, Titus 1.5
- Men did not just assume the duty of elders, not just older men
- Qualifications given by the Holy Spirit in 1 Timothy 3.1-7; Titus 1.5-9, 1 Peter 5
- How could they have been qualified?
 - Spiritual gifts, Jewish converts who were godly, devote men who went to work to meet the qualifications
- How were they selected? Example in Acts 6.1-6
 - Congregations told the qualifications, they selected the men, and Paul appointed them.

What to do in order to have elders?

Cannot appoint unqualified men

Must look at qualifications –

Look at self

Work on self

Must understand the “work” of the elders

Encourage men to aspire to the office of elders