

# **Pastor-Teachers in the Life of the Church: Part Two**

**Ephesians 4:7-16**  
**December 16, 2007**

# Why Pastor-Teachers?

- There is in the Greek language what is called the  $\mu\epsilon\nu$ - $\delta\epsilon$  (men-de) construction. This construction is used in Ephesians 4:11 as follows:
  - *“And he gave the ( $\mu\epsilon\nu$ ) apostles, the ( $\delta\epsilon$ ) prophets, the ( $\delta\epsilon$ ) evangelists, the ( $\delta\epsilon$ ) pastors and teachers...”*

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# My Main Point Last Week Was...

- *Pastors are to lead the church of God by teaching, and they're to teach by the Word of God.*
- A confirmation from J. C. Ryle's 19<sup>th</sup> Century book entitled, *Holiness...*

# What Are Pastors?

- The NT uses three words for “pastor”:
  - ***Poimen***—means “shepherd” and is used 4 times to refer to leaders of churches.
  - ***Episcopos***—means “overseer” and is used 6 times to refer to leaders of churches.
  - ***Presbuteros***—means “elder” and is used 20 times to refer to leaders of churches.
  - These terms are interchangeable (Acts 20).

# Insights Regarding Pastor/Elders:

1. Elders are not self-appointed, but are given by Christ to the church, through the the Holy Spirit and the authority structures of the church (Eph. 4:11; Acts 20:28; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).
2. There is always a multiplicity of elders in every church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).
3. The main requirement for being an elder is a maturing Christ-like character that's being demonstrated, first and foremost, in the home (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

# 1 Timothy 3:4-5

*“He [the elder] must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?”*

# Insights Regarding Pastor/Elders:

4. In the NT the elders are always men.
5. Elders may be paid but this is not a requirement (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

# 1 Timothy 5:17-18

*“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’”*

# Insights Regarding Pastor/Elders:

6. Because of the nature and seriousness of the office of elder, we ought to be very slow in appointing elders (1 Tim. 5:22).
7. The God-given authority of elders does not mean that they are above question (1 Tim. 5:19-20).

*Summary: Elders are humble, maturing men of God who have a passion and a calling to humbly lead the people of God, for the glory of God and the good of the church.*

# What do Pastors Do?

1. Pastors shepherd themselves well (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 4:12, 16; 6:11-16; 1 Peter 5:3b).
2. Pastors shepherd their families well (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6-7a ).
3. Pastors shepherd the church of God well by praying, teaching, and governing (Acts 6:4; Acts 20:17-38; 1 Timothy 2:1; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5; Titus 1:9; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-5 ).