

## Lesson 6 | The Role of Elders

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### Scriptures to Consider:

Jer. 23:1-4; Eze. 34:2-12; John 10:1-18; Acts 15:1-35; 19:1-20; 20:17-38; Eph. 4:11-16; 1Thes. 5:12-13; 1Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17-22; 6:3-5; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 12:15; 13:17; Jam. 5:13-18; 1Pet. 5:1-5

- I. Characteristics/Qualities
  - a. As an elder
  - b. As an overseer
  - c. As a shepherd
- II. Churches without elders
  - a. Reasons
  - b. Functionality
  - c. "Men's meetings"

### **Questions:**

1. What are some characteristics/qualities a shepherd ought to have, using Jesus, our Great Shepherd as the example? (John 10:1-18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is it important that an elder is capable of teaching? How is teaching from an elder different than that of a younger evangelist?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How is an elder's "oversight" similar to that of any Christian? How is it different?

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4. What are some “easy” tasks elders have? What are some “hard” tasks elders have?
5. Should all men desire the office of an elder? Why or why not?
6. How does a church function without elders? (ex. Who oversees the flock? Who feeds the flock? Etc.)
7. When elders are not present, “men’s meetings” or “business meetings” are typically conducted. What should be the focus of these meetings? What authority is there to conduct such meetings?
8. What are some major differences between “men” making decisions for the church (i.e. when elders do not exist) versus elders making decisions for the church?