

THE CHURCH

Eph 3:9-10

God who created all things through Jesus Christ;
to the intent that now

the manifold wisdom of God

might be made known through the church

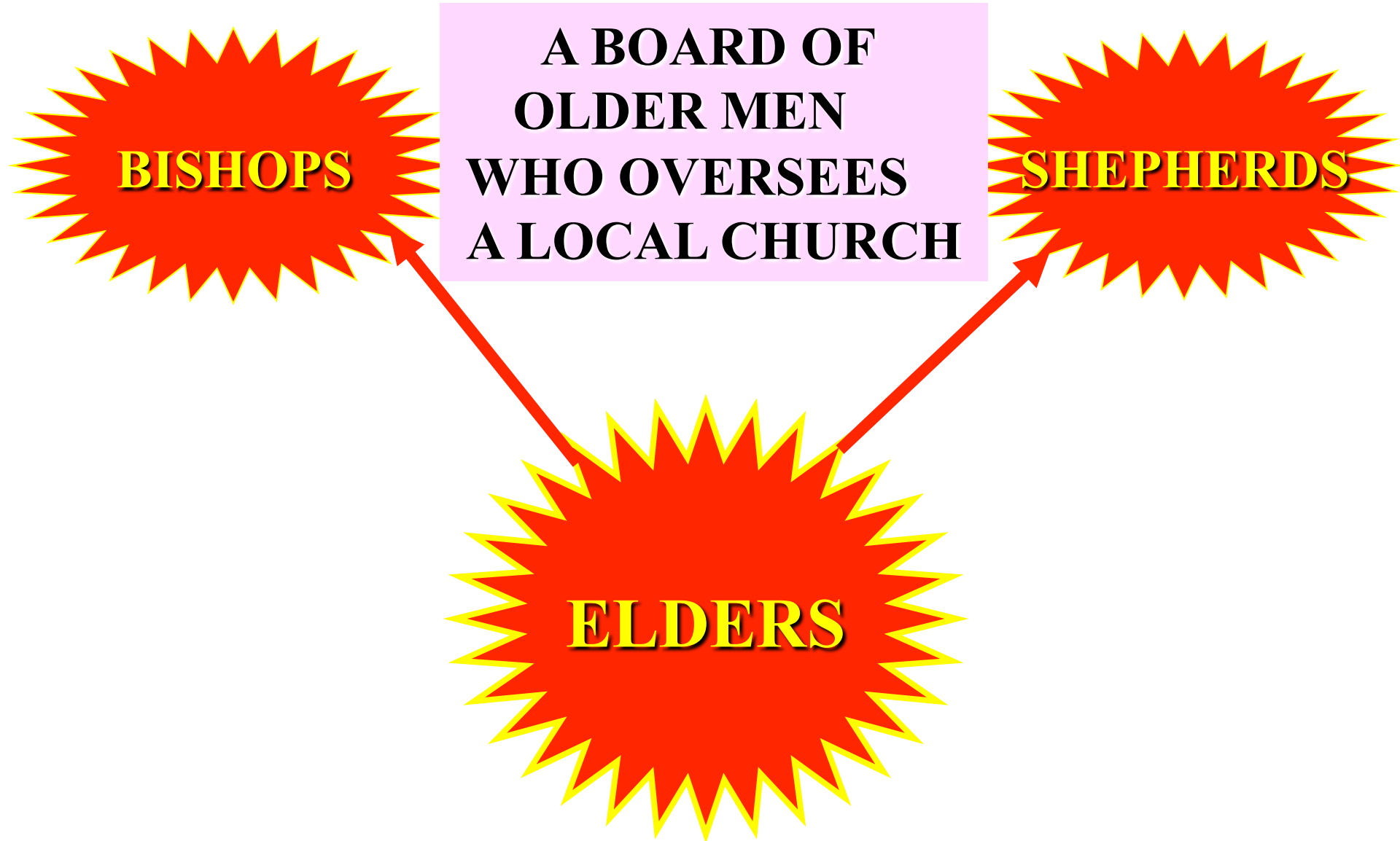
to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places

**THE REASON FOR OUR SERMON TODAY
IS BECAUSE PART OF THAT DIVINE PLAN IS TO HAVE
ELDERS OVER EVERY LOCAL CHURCH**

SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW GOD'S TEACHING ON

***HOW ELDERS ARE TO
RELATE TO MEMBERS***

The Sermon Last Week





ELDERS

1 Peter 5:2-3

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

**nor as being lords over those
(entrusted assigned or allotted) to you,**

but being examples to the flock;

1. Authority in eldership, not the man

2. Must rule by example, not as lords

3. Only one flock assigned to them

4. Only in behalf of your souls

Ezra 3:12 wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid

1 Sam 8:5 Now give us a king to judge us like all the nations."



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Zech 4:10

For who has despised the day of small things?

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- 2. Must rule by example, not as lords**
- 3. Only one flock assigned to them**
- 4. Only in behalf of your souls**

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ELDERS MAY RULE IN ONLY ONE CONGREGATION



THEY ARE NOT ONLY RESTRICTED TO THE ONE
CONGREGATION BUT THEY ARE RESTRICTED TO THE
WORK THEY CAN DO AND **RESTRICTED IN THE WAY
THEY MAY DO IT**

Matt 20:25-27

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. **Yet it shall not be so among you;** but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave

1 Peter 5:1-3

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;**

The Responsibilities of elders are great but restricted

1. TAKE HEED TO THEMSELVES

Acts 20:28 **Take heed unto yourselves**, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you **bishops, to feed (shepherd)** the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.

2 Cor 13:5 **Try your own selves**, whether ye are in the faith; **prove your own selves**. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate.

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2. TAKE HEED TO THE FLOCK

**Acts 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves,
and to all the flock,
in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops**

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3. TAKE OVERSIGHT OF THE CHURCH

Acts 20:28 Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you **bishops (overseers)**

1 Peter 5:2 Tend the flock of God which is among you, **exercising the oversight,**

OVERSIGHT

➡ 1. MAKE SURE TO FEED THE FLOCK THE WORD OF GOD

➡ 2. LEGISLATE ONLY IN MATTERS OF EXPEDIENCY

➡ 3. DO NOT “LORD IT OVER” (1 Pet. 5:2; Mt. 20:25)

➡ 4. MUST MAKE THE FINAL DECISIONS

➡ 5. MUST ACCEPT THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY

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4. SHEPHERD THE FLOCK (FEED – TEND)

Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2



EZK. 34

The Responsibilities of elders are great but restricted

4. PROTECT THE FLOCK - Acts 20:29; Tit. 1:9-11

1. WATCH FOR GRIEVOUS WOLVES

2. STOP THE MOUTH OF VAIN TALKERS

**3. MUST BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE SLIGHT, CRAFTY,
WILES OF ERROR AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF MEN**

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4. PROTECT THE FLOCK - Acts 20:29; Tit. 1:9-11

1. WATCH FOR GRIEVOUS WOLVES

2. STO

Acts 20:29 I know that after my departing **grievous wolves** shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock;

3. MUST BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE SLIGHT, CRAFTY, WILES OF ERROR AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF MEN

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2. S Matt 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are **ravening wolves**.

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1. WATCH FOR GRIEVOUS WOLVES

2. S Matt 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are **ravening wolves**.

3. M Titus 1:9-11 holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to **convict the gainsayers**. For there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision, **whose mouths must be stopped**

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WII Eph 4:14 that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error;

The Responsibilities of elders are great but restricted

5. BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE FLOCK



1 Peter 5:2-3 Tend **(shepherd)** the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, **(doing the work of a bishop)** not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **neither as lording it over** the charge allotted to you, but **making yourselves ensamples to the flock.**

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6. RULE WELL - 1 Tim. 5:17

**1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be
counted worthy of double honor**

1. NOT LORDING IT OVER THE CHURCH – 3 John 9

**2. ALWAYS STAYING WITHIN THE SPHERE
OF ELDERS' AUTHORITY - 1 Pet. 5:2**

3. RULE WITH DILIGENCE – Rom. 12:8

**4. KEEP THINGS DECENTLY AND IN ORDER
1 Cor. 14:40**

The Responsibilities of elders are great
but restricted

7. ADMONISH THE CHURCH

1 Thess 5:12

But we beseech you, brethren, to know them that labor
among you, and **are over you in the Lord**, and
admonish you;

“TO PUT IN MIND, ADMONISH, WARN, EXHORT”
(Thayer)

The Responsibilities of elders are great
but restricted

8. WATCH FOR YOUR SOULS

THIS IS THE MOST TERRIFYING VERSE IN THE BIBLE
CONCERNING ELDERS & ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit to them: for
they watch in behalf of your



as they that **shall give account;**

that they may do this with joy, and not with grief:

for this were unprofitable for you.

The Responsibilities of elders are great but restricted

8. WATCH FOR YOUR SOULS

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit to them:
for they watch in behalf of your souls,



***THE RELATIONSHIP OF
ELDERS AND MEMBERS
IS AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY***

Heb 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.