

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-toned image. In the foreground, a portion of a ship's steering wheel is visible, with its spokes and a hand resting on it. The hand is positioned as if navigating, with fingers spread. In the background, a map or chart is visible, showing various lines and geographical features. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a sense of direction and guidance.

Eldership

A Biblical Survey for the Church

Elders in the Old Testament

- **Common practice** in Egypt (Gen 50:7), Moab (Num. 22:7), Phoenicia (Ezek 27:9), and Israel (occurs 178x in O.T.).
- **Made decisions** for the people (Ex. 3:16-18 – Passover, Judges 11 – Recruited Jephtha, 1 Sam 11 – Recruited Saul, 2 Sam 5:3 – Crowned David, 1 Ki 21 – Killed Naboth, 2 Ki 10:1 – Killed Ahab's sons, Ezra 5-6 – Rebuilt temple)
- **Kept the law** (Ex. 19:7/Deut 31:9/Josh 24 – Law given to, Num 11:25 – Received H.S., Deut 27:1/32:7 – Teach law, Ezek 7:26 – Consequence of neglect)
- **Executed justice** according to the law (Num 16:25 – Dathan & Abiram, Deut 19:12 – Execute murderer, Deut 25 – Arbitrate family dispute, Ezekiel 9:6 – Judgment begins upon)
- **Led in seeking forgiveness** (Lev 4:15 – Sin offering, Deut 21 – Murder, 1 Chron 21:16 – Census, Ezra 10 – Marriage)
- **Led in worship** (Ex. 24 – Sinai, Josh 8:33 – Gerazim-Ebal, 1 Chron 15:25 – Jerusalem, Psalm 107:32, Ezek. 8 - False)
- **Promised to future church** Jer. 3:15 – Return... “then I will give you shepherds after My own heart who will feed you...”

Elders in the New Testament

- **Mentioned 62 times**
- **Maintained pure teaching:**
(Vet Peter – Acts 4, Prosecute Paul – Acts 24:1, 25:15, Jerusalem Council – Acts 15)
- **Led Ministry to needy:** (Collection for poor – Acts 11:30, Prayer for sick – James 5:14)
- **Governed churches:**
(Apostolic appointment – Acts 14:23, Timothy's Ordination – 1 Tim 4:14, Ephesus – Acts 20:17, Titus in Crete – Titus 1:5, Ruling & teaching – 1 Tim 5:17, In heaven – Rev 4:4)
- **Lead worship:** (Music & prayer – Rev 5:8, "Hallelujah, Amen!" - Rev 19:4)

Four Commands to Elders

1. Be apt to teach

- Devoted to prayer and ministry of word (Acts 6:4)
- Qualification for eldership in 1 Tim 3:2
- Diligently labor at it:
 - **1Thess 5:12** “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor (κοπιᾶω) among you, and lead (προϊστήμι) you in the Lord and give you instruction (νουθετέω)”
 - **1Tim. 5:17** “The elders who rule well ... work hard (κοπιᾶω) at preaching and teaching.”
- Develop skills in teaching.
- Seize teachable moments.

Four Commands to Elders

1. **Be apt to teach**

2. **Shepherd the flock**

- **Shepherd yourself:** 1Pet. 5:1-3 “examples (τύπος)”
- **Shepherd your home:**
1Tim. 3:4 “manages (προϊστήμι) his own household well, keeping his children under control (ὑποταγή) with all dignity [cf. Titus 1:6 “having children who believe”]
- **Shepherd through visiting & prayer:** James 5:14
- **Watch-care & Accountability:**
Heb 13:17 “...they keep watch over (ἀγρυπνέω) your souls as those who will give an account.”

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Four Commands to Elders

1. Be apt to teach
2. Shepherd the flock
3. Be alert

- **Acts 20:28-35** "Be on guard (προσέχω) for yourselves and for all the flock ... the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (ἐπίσκοπος)...men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert (γρηγορεύω)... And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace..."
- **Titus 1:7-9** "For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

Four Commands to Elders

1. Be apt to teach
2. Shepherd the flock
3. Be alert

4. Remember the poor

- Paul's commission - Gal 2:10, Fulfilled Acts 11:29-30.
- In Ephesus: Acts 20:33-35 "...help (ἀντιλαμβάνομαι) the weak ... 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- Include the spiritually impoverished:
 - **2 Tim 4:1-5** "...preach the word ... do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."
 - **1Cor 15:1-4** "...the gospel ... by which you are saved... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"

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Commands to the congregation

1. Humbly submit to your elders:

- **Heb. 13:17** “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over (ἀγρυπνέω) your souls...”
- **1 Peter 5:5** “...be subject to your elders ... clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

2. Honor and provide for your elders:

- **1 Tim. 5:17-22** The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching... Don't muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

3. Hold your elders accountable:

- **1 Tim 5:19-22** Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all... Do not lay hands upon anyone *too* hastily and thus share in the sins...