



Leadership Forum • November 12, 2011
 “Elders”

RESOURCES

- *The Reformed Pastor*, by Richard Baxter
- *The Elder and His Work*, by David Dickson
- *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift That Changes Everything*, by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne
- *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*, by Henri Nouwen
- *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership*, by Alexander Strauch
- *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*, by Timothy Witmer

WHAT IS AN ELDER? WHAT DO ELDERS DO?

[1 Peter 5:1-3] I exhort the elders among you... ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

[Hebrews 13:17] They are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

[BCO 8]

[Witmer]

	Knowing	Feeding	Leading	Protecting
Macro (public/corporate)				
Micro/ (personal/relational)				
PRAYER				
MINISTRY OF THE WORD				

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS

[Charles Garland] What we usually do in the church—especially in a young church where we don’t know each other as well—is that we look at people who are gifted, at people who know a lot, at people who have visionary leadership skills, and we say, “Those are the people that should be leaders.” The Scripture points us in a different direction, and says, “No, we look at people who have God’s grace at work in their lives, deeply, and that’s who should lead us. People who are good ‘repenters.’ Not the people who seem to have everything together, but the people who are continually being challenged and reformed by Jesus’ grace in their own lives. That’s the kind of character that’s most important in Christian leadership. It’s more important than visionary ability, skills and gifts.”

[Nouwen] The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which our world has invested so much, but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross. This might sound morbid and masochistic, but for those who have heard the voice of the first love and said “yes” to it, the downward-moving way of Jesus is the way to the joy and the peace of God, a joy and peace that is not of this world.

[1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-16]

[BCO 57-5; 24-1, 6] (membership vows, examination requirements, ordination vows)

Comprehension, Capability, Character, Calling.