

Shepherds And Their Sheep

1 Peter 5:1-4

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

So I exhort the **elders** among you

Mark 3:14

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they **might be with him** and he might **send them out to preach**

Jesus' concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men the multitudes would follow.”

- Robert Coleman

Acts 14:23

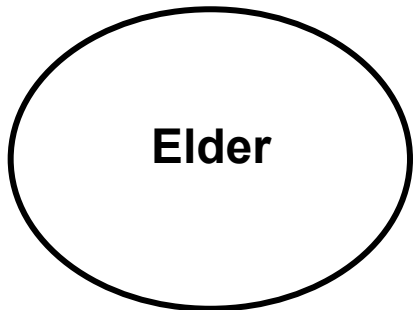
And when they had **appointed elders** for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Titus 1:5

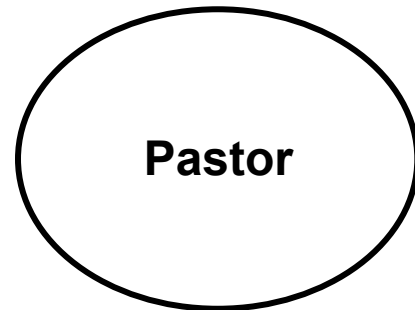
This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and **appoint elders** in every town as I directed you

What About The Pastor- Is That A “Special” Role?

Volunteer Role



“Professional” Role



Sadly, too many Christian view the role of a pastor in this light. The Scripture has a very different understanding.

➤ **“Pastor” is never an office in Scripture.**

➤ **Pastoring is one of many spiritual gifts.**

“He gave some to be...pastors and teachers...” (Eph 4:11)

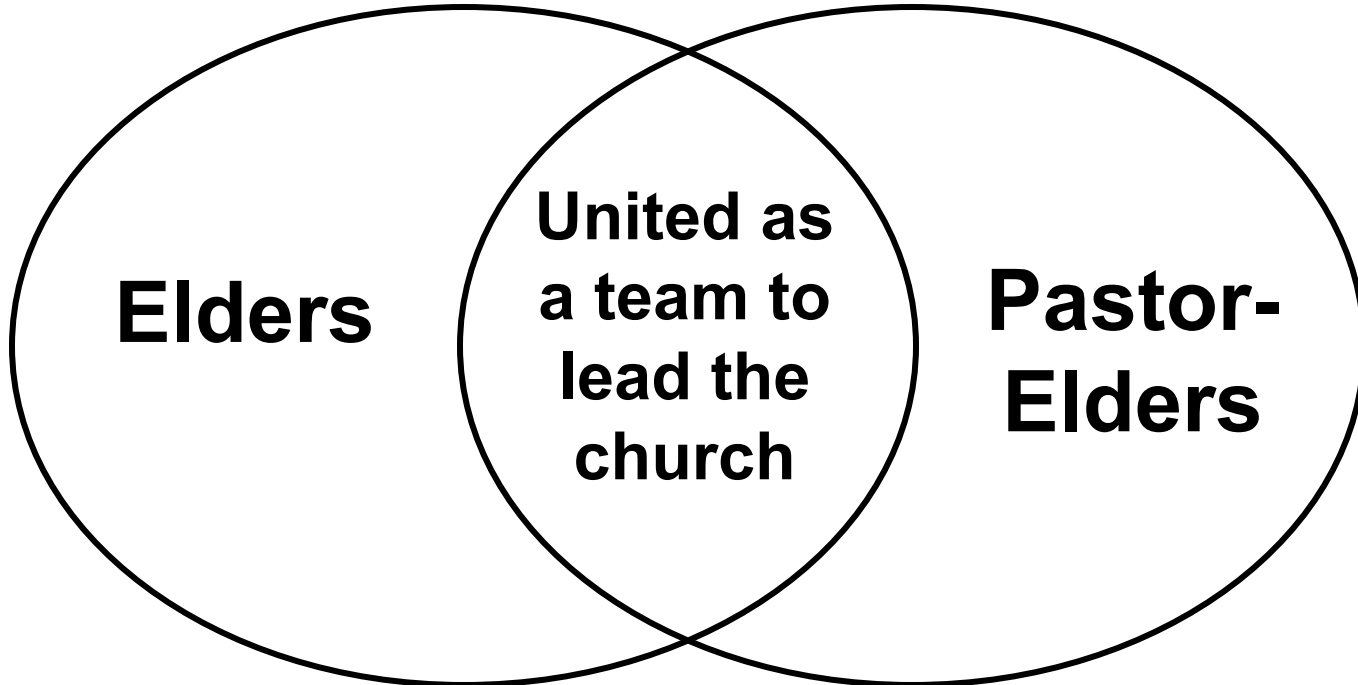
➤ **Certain elders devote special time and energy to teaching, a key function of pastoring.**

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, **especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.** (1 Tim 5:17)*

➤ **A pastor is one member of the elder team who devotes special attention to teaching.**

A Better Understanding Of Leadership

One Team Of Elders Who Work
As One To Lead The Church



as a fellow elder and a witness of
the sufferings of Christ

Peter, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 4:17

For it is time for judgment to begin at
the household of God;

James 3:1

Not many of you should become
teachers, my brothers, for you know
that we who teach will be judged with
greater strictness.

When Peter calls himself in verse 1 a "fellow elder," it's not that he is laying claim to an exalted title (he could have called himself an apostle!); he's expressing a willingness to suffer in the refiner's fire along with the rest of the elders.

- John Piper

as a fellow elder and a **witness of
the sufferings** of Christ

Acts 2:32

This Jesus God raised up, and of that
we all are witnesses.

Acts 3:15

and you killed the Author of life, whom
God raised from the dead. To this we
are witnesses.

'witness of the sufferings of Christ' bluntly recalls, for Peter and for anyone familiar with the details surrounding Christ's crucifixion, the most painful episode in Peter's life - for we remember just what kind of 'witness' Peter was: one whose courage failed and who three times denied that he even knew him.

– Wayne Grudem

partaker in the **glory that is going
to be revealed**

But rejoice insofar as you share
Christ's sufferings, that you may also
rejoice and be glad **when his glory is
revealed.**

shepherd the flock of God that is
among you

John 21:15-17

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Feed my lambs.**" He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Tend my sheep.**" He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

exercising **oversight, not under
compulsion, but willingly,** as
God would have you;

Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for
us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

1 Corinthians 9:16

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me
no ground for boasting. For necessity is
laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not
preach the gospel!

A pastor must labor in the wholeheartedness of the Chief Shepherd Himself, Who could say, 'My food is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to accomplish His work.

– C. E. B. Crainfield

Not for **shameful** gain, but
eagerly

1 Timothy 6:10

For the **love** of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Even preachers with a recognizable gospel message discredit their words with constant demands for money, money that must pass through their hands to build their empires.

– Edmund Clowney

not domineering over those in
your charge, but being
examples to the flock.

Ezekiel 34:4

The weak you have not strengthened,
the sick you have not healed, the
injured you have not bound up, the
strayed you have not brought back,
the lost you have not sought, and
with force and harshness you have
ruled them.

Matthew 20:25-26

But Jesus called them to him and said,
“You know that the rulers of the
Gentiles lord it over them, and their
great ones exercise authority over
them. It shall not be so among you. But
whoever would be great among you
must be your servant

And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 2:25

For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the **Shepherd and Overseer** of your souls.

The designation of Jesus as the Chief Shepherd reminds the leaders that they are fundamentally servants, not autocrats.

Their positions of leadership are a responsibility, not a privilege by which they advance their own status. As shepherds they serve under the authority of the Chief Shepherd, doing his will rather than theirs.

- Thomas Schreiner

And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **unfading crown of glory**.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the **crown of life**, which God has promised to those who love him. – James 1:12

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you **the crown of life**. – Revelation 2:10

He who would be a faithful minister of the gospel must deny the pride of his heart, be emptied of ambition, and set himself wholly to seek the glory of God in his calling.

– William Perkins