



Elders of the Church

August 30, 2026

1 Peter 5:1-5



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Introduction:

*By far, the most common term for church leadership in the New Testament is **Elder**.*

Unfolding Timeline of Elders

A.D. 45	Acts 11:30	Elders in Judea
A.D. 45-47	James 5:13	Elders prayer/healing ministry
A.D. 47	Acts 14:21-23	Paul/Barnabas appoint Elders
A.D. 49	Acts 15:1-32	Elders in Jerusalem
A.D. 63	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Qualifications for Elders
A.D. 63	1 Peter 5:1-5	Peter Exhorts Elders
A.D. 65	Titus 1:5-16	Qualifications for Elders
A.D. 64-68	Hebrews 13:7,14,24	Directive to imitate leaders

MCC Elder Team Formation

A team of elders is the form and structure of church leadership that we see in the New Testament.

A team of elders is the channel by which the Holy Spirit guides, cares for and build up the church. However, all believers' are called to care for, exhort, love, serve and build one another up.

Scripture presents us with the role of an elder team as the primary structure of church leadership. As such, we are inviting the congregation to engage with a discernment process to determines what that team could look like and who could serve in that way.

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1 Peter 5:1-5

“1So 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: 2shepherd 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; 3not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”.

Character Emphasis: (See also 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)

1. Humility:

- Peter identifies himself as a fellow elder
- Humility is not the diminishing of your own value, but a proper estimation of oneself in the eyes of our Creator

2. Eager to Serve:

- Elders serve not out of obligation or compulsion but willingly

3. Lead with Gentleness:

- Does not use manipulation or force to get what they want.

Function Emphasis:

1. Shepherd the Flock:
 - Nurture, tend and care for the flock
2. Exercising oversight:
 - Meaning to watch over, or look at diligently
 - See Hebrews 12:15
3. Being Examples to the Flock:
 - No glaring sin or character issues
 - Should be able to say “follow me as I follow Christ”

Other Functions:

1. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 describes an elder as one who is able to teach
 - Frequency differs
 - Able to help others understand scripture
2. James 5:13-14
 - Describes a prayer and healing ministry of the elders

The elder is one who walks in humility, eagerly serves with gentleness and intentionally watches over the local fellowship of believers' in love as an undershepherd to the Good Shepherd - Jesus.

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