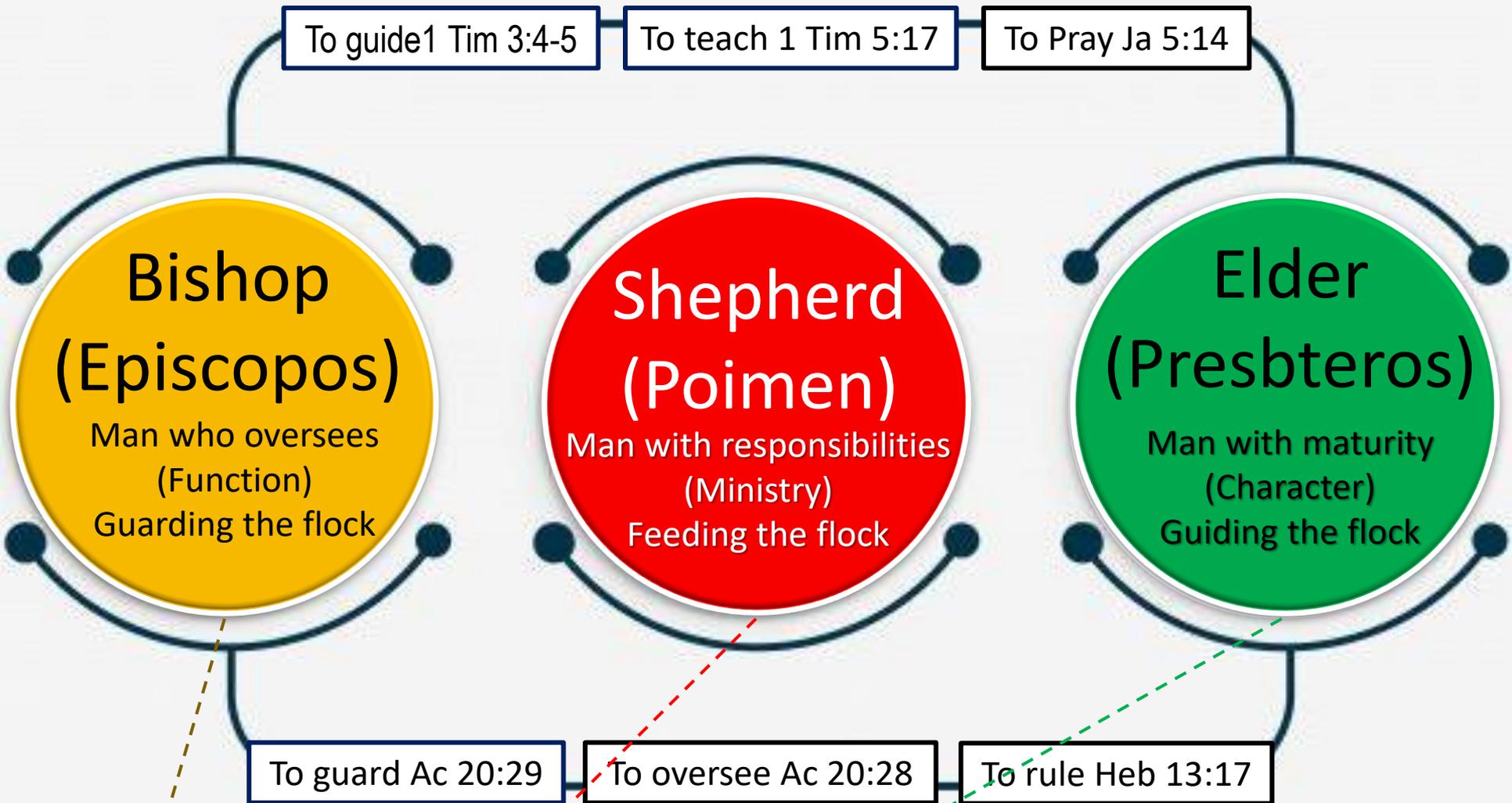


# ELDERSHIP OBJECTIVES

- 1.Reference:** How is the term “elder” used in relation to the church, bishop and shepherd.
- 2.Roles & Responsibilities:** What is expected of an elder in terms of their behaviour & duties?
- 3.Requirements:** What are the qualifications necessary to be considered of an elder?
- 4.Recognition:** How are elders recognized and appointed in the pastoral ministry?
- 5.Response:** What is the relationship between elders and the congregation?



# THE TERM ELDER USED IN THE NT IN REFERENCE TO THE CHURCH



1 Peter 5:1-2 “Therefore, I exhort the elders (**presbuteros**) among you, as your fellow-elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed; shepherd (**poimaino**) the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (**episkopeo**) not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God”.

## Requirements of Elders (Bishops & Overseers)

1 Timothy 3	Titus 1	Implications	Reasons
Above Reproach (3:2; 1:6)		<b>1. Personal Life</b> a. Spiritual Maturity b. Moral purity c. Godliness in attitudes & actions (Negative: what he must not be; Positive: what he must be) d. Well-organised & disciplined <b>2. Home Life</b> a. Proven family leadership b. Maintains a godly family. c. A one-woman man. <b>3. Assembly Life</b> a. Teaching & training b. Pastoral care c. Protect the flock d. Decision-making e. Disciplining <b>4. Public Life (Work &amp; Social)</b> a. Good reputation b. Well-respected	1. An example for the flock, family and friends. 2. A Test of leadership, responsible judgement and fulfilment of duties. 3. Uphold God's higher standard. 4. Honour credibility, testimony and reputation. 5. Rob his joy of service, preventing hurt, affects decision-making and corrupts the ministry. 6. Perceptions of members. 7. Accountability to God, assembly, family, employer and friends.
Husband of one wife (3:2; 1:6)			
Temperate v.2	Self-controlled v.8		
Prudent v.2	Sensible v.8		
Respectable v.2			
Hospitable (3:2; 1:8)			
Able to teach v.2	Able to exhort, refute v.9		
Not addicted to wine (3:3; 1:7)			
Not Pugnacious (3:3; 1:7)			
Gentle v.3			
Uncontentious v.3			
Free from the love of money v.3	Not fond of sordid gain v.7		
Ruling his household well v.4	God's steward v.7		
Having Children (3:4; 1:6)			
Not a new convert v.6			
Good reputation v.7			
	Not self-willed v.7		
	Not quick-tempered v.7		
	Loving what is good v.8		
	Devout v.8		

# The Call To Eldership



Confirmation by God and others.

*"...a wide door for effective work has opened to me"* Tit 1:5.



Abilities to instruct, shepherd & administer.

*"to equip the saints for the work of ministry..."* Eph 4:12.



Longing to serve and be of use by the Lord.

*"...he desires a noble task"* 1 Tim 3:1.



Lifestyle of integrity.

*"Keep a close watch on yourself"* 1 Tim 4:16.

“I don’t see how anyone could survive in the ministry if he felt it was just his own choice. Some ministers scarcely have two good days back to back. They are sustained by the knowledge that God has placed them where they are. Ministers without such a conviction often lack courage and carry their resignation letter in their coat pocket. At the slightest hint of difficulty, they are gone”

Lutzer

Laziness hinders  
the hard work  
of ministry.

Personal purity to  
guard the heart.



## What Are The Ministry Threats

Poor Judgement  
in building a  
strong team.

Non-supportive  
family.



## What is the elders' relationship to the congregation?



### Prayerful Fellowship



This relationship should involve appreciation, respect, love and cooperation (1 Thess 5:12,13).



Mutual accountability: we are to obey and submit to our elders because they watch over our souls, as those who will give an account to the Lord (Heb 13:17).



We should remember the faith and conduct of the elders, as their examples influence God's people to follow the Lord (Hebrews 13:7).



Elders are called and appointed by the Holy Spirit and identified by the existing elders. They are entrusted with the responsibility of leadership (Acts 20:28).