

A Brief Introduction

Detailed Outline

Summary Statements

1. Biblical Eldership is Eldership by the Book.

The reason we call this “biblical eldership” is that the view of eldership presented here honestly and accurately represents the biblical teaching of eldership.

2. Biblical Eldership is Pastoral Eldership.

Both the apostles Paul and Peter use shepherd-sheep imagery when defining the work of the elders. Thus biblical elders are shepherd (pastor) elders.

3. Biblical Eldership is Biblically Qualified Eldership.

Biblical elders are required to meet certain moral and spiritual qualifications, as well as, be able to teach sound doctrine and protect the church from false teachers.

4. Biblical Eldership is Spirit-appointed Eldership.

Biblical elders must be Spirit-appointed, not self-appointed.

5. Biblical Eldership is Pastoral Oversight of the Local Church by a Plurality of Qualified Elders.

As 1 Timothy 5:1-8 demonstrates, the plurality of elders entails both equality of authority and diversity of giftedness, knowledge, and experience.

Why is this Subject Important?

1. God’s Word Teaches Pastoral Eldership.

Many of our church problems are the result of outright disobedience to the clear instructions of Scripture.

2. Biblical Eldership Promotes the True Nature of the New Testament Church.

The church is the family of God, and thus its leadership structure should harmonize with and promote the family nature of the church.

3. Biblical Eldership Provides the Leaders of the Church with Genuine Accountability.

Because of our beliefs in the realities of sin, human depravity, and Satan, we should require that people in positions of authority within the church have genuine peer accountability.

4. Biblical Eldership Provides True Peer Relationships.

Having true peer relationships within the leadership body of elders, sharpens, balances, comforts, protects, and strengthens the elders themselves.

5. Biblical Eldership Provides More Balanced Pastoral Care for the Church.

Each elder contributes his own wisdom, perspective, knowledge, and experience to group decision making and the care of God's people. This provides the local church with a more balanced leadership body, and protects the church from one person's extremes and imbalances.