

Restoring Biblical Eldership

School of the Shepherds 101

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the School of the Shepherds. This is a nine-lesson course aimed at introducing students and teachers to the School of the Shepherds and the Biblical Eldership website.

This introductory course explains (1) what biblical eldership is, (2) the qualifications for biblical elders, (3) the four-fold task of shepherd elders, and (4) the skills required of Christ's under-shepherds.

This course is not intended to be studied alone, but is best done in a group context with other potential elders or interested people, or in a one-on-one situation with a discipler/disciple or mentor/mentee. The material provided is meant to encourage and stimulate discussion.

Taking this course does not guarantee a person will become an elder, but will help in gaining an understanding of what eldership is all about. It will help in the preparation for becoming an elder.

GOALS

Alexander Strauch's teaching can help a student interested in eldership to see if God is calling him to shepherd God's people (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1), and whether he is ready to answer that call. If he is not yet ready but remains interested, the School of the Shepherds program will nonetheless help equip the student for eldership or leadership in the future.

In addition, this introductory course is applicable for anyone interested in what the Bible teaches about pastoral eldership or how a church should be governed according to Scripture.

Before preparing new elders, the local church elders need to familiarize themselves with the content of these messages. A team of elders may want to view these introductory videos as a group or individually.

After completing the nine lessons, if a person wants more in-depth training for pastoral eldership, School of the Shepherds provides additional semesters of training, each consisting of 10 to 12 lessons.

At the successful completion of this course, you be awarded a certification of completion.

Each lesson includes the following:

- A video lecture - normally 15 minutes or shorter. Most lessons have a video.
- An audio link - just the audio version of the lecture, same content as the video.
- Lecture Outline - to be printed down and used for note taking during the lecture.

- Detailed Outline - contains the lecture content in condensed written form. Print these and save them in a binder or a folder on your computer. You will need these notes to better remember the message and answer the review questions).
- Review Questions - these will help solidify the teaching in your mind. You must get 90% or higher in order to advance beyond this lesson. You will have opportunity to repeat these reviews. The answers will come directly from the teaching.
- Discussion questions - these are for kickstarting your interactions with your mentor or your study group/team. You will have opportunity to indicate when you have completed these. In case you are doing these lessons by yourself, you can use them for personal contemplation. It is during these discussions and encounters that the most meaningful learning takes place, the content is internalized, and life transformation happens.
- Optional applications - these are for those who would like to immediately respond to or put into practice what has been learned. Additionally, these may include links or suggestions for further study.

Before you are allowed to proceed to the next lessons, the review questions from each lesson must be answered correctly (90%) and the discussion questions checked.

READING

You will need a copy of *The Biblical Eldership Booklet: Restoring the Eldership to Its Rightful Place in the Church*. It is available to read online or [download for free on the Biblical Eldership Resources website](#). Or you can purchase the printed booklet from the [Biblical Eldership Resources online store](#).

Before listening to the second message, read pages 31-34 of the *Biblical Eldership* booklet. You will be asked to read specific portions of this booklet for each lesson.

If you like, you may also purchase the full-length treatment of this subject, *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership*, by Alexander Strauch, from the [Biblical Eldership Resources online store](#), though it is not required for this course.

COST

This introductory course is free of charge. However, there is a small fee required for each of the additional courses in order to help with the ongoing expense of maintaining and improving the School of the Shepherds program.

Anyone unable to afford these additional semesters of training may [contact](#) Biblical Eldership Resources (biblicaleldership.com) for financial assistance. We do not want lack of financial ability to hinder anyone desiring to shepherd God's precious flock and needing to be equipped for this important work. As the Scripture says, "If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task" (1 Tim. 3:1 ESV).

NOTE: You must be logged in as a registered user of the BER website in order to take this course (otherwise attempting to start the lessons will bring you back to this page). If you have not registered yet, click on the Login link at the top right of the webpage.