

Study Guide

Building Blocks of the Church

Chapter 10 – Elders

Questions for Discussion

1. Discuss the terms “Pastor”, “Shepherd”, “Elder”, Bishop” and “Presbyter”. Do these refer to the same office or are they different?
2. If they do refer to the same office, why are there different labels?
3. Are all elders teachers and are all teachers elders?
4. What would the differences be between “ruling” or “leading” elders and “teaching elders”?
5. If there is to be a multiplicity of elders, what do we make of the “typical” single pastor setup?
6. What are the dangers of single pastors?
7. What are the advantages of a multiplicity of elders?
8. How do full-time elders / pastors relate to non-full-time elders? Is the “Pastor” senior to or above the elders or are the elders over the “Pastor”? Or are these the wrong questions?

9. Of the qualifications of an elder which qualifications are more important?

10. Are there perfect elders? If not, then how far and in which areas can there be compromise on the qualifications?

11. How is ordination done in the New Testament?

12. Who ordains in the following cases:
 - a. A church planted by an apostle and the apostle is still alive / available
 - b. A church planted by an apostle but he is not alive
 - c. A church planted by a brother who is not an apostle and continues to be a leader in the church
 - d. A church which began spontaneously out of a home meeting or from a group of believers meeting together.

13. Can an elder function without ordination?

14. Why do we need ordination?

15. What if the elder's attitude changes after he was ordained? (For example he becomes more authoritarian)

16. Describe the tasks and functions of elders.

17. Do all elders have the same functions?

Additional resources

Articles:

MP3s

1. Elders (<http://www.antonbosch.com/tapes2006.html>)