

The Biblical Elder

“When ministries fail, it is most often not because we have failed to understand or even apply the best techniques and programmatic advances with the flock. **We most often fail because we have either forgotten or have not known that the key to every ministry is the quality of the shepherd who leads.**” (Joseph Stowell, Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century, p. 11).

What is an elder?

An elder is a recognized, God-called servant-leader in Jesus’ church, equipped with the head, heart and hands of a spiritual shepherd, who serves alongside other elders in the church.

—**An elder is an office in the church, and not a person.** Paul describes the “office” of overseer (elder) in 1 Tim. 3:1. In addition, Paul explains in Eph. 4:11 that Jesus Christ gave gifts to the church in the form of offices (Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists).

—**The office of elder is a “noble position”.** In Paul’s 1st letter to Timothy, he tells Timothy that “If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.” The Greek word for “fine” (*kalou*) can be translated “noble” (ESV) and means “what is praiseworthy.”

—**An elder is “recognized” by the people and church leadership.** In the New Testament, the existing church leadership formally recognized each new elder through a ceremony that included the public laying on of hands. (1 Tim. 5:22)

—**An elder is God-called.** The calling of an elder is not from man, but from God. Pastors/elders are sovereign gifts from Jesus Christ to His church. (Eph. 4:7, 11) God (through Jesus Christ) uses human instruments to recognize and affirm His calling upon an elder, but God is the one who calls men to this ministry.

—**An elder is a servant-leader.** The elder team possesses spiritual authority in the church, but it is authority that is used to serve others in the church (1 Pet. 5:1-3). The elder does not use his office to receive from others, but to give to others. The elder does not lord it over God’s people, but he sacrificially loves God’s people.

—**An elder serves in Jesus’ church.** The local church is precious to Jesus. Jesus promised to build her so that the gates of hell would not prevail against her. (Matt. 16:18). The local church is Jesus’ precious bride whom He loves so much that He gave Himself up for her on the cross. And He did this so that He might one day present the church to Himself in all of her glory as a spotless bride (Eph. 5:25-27). God directs for elders to be appointed in each local church so that they can serve Him in caring for His people (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5).

—**An elder serves alongside other elders.** The elder does not possess authority as an individual, but is a member of a group of other elders who together serve the church. The Bible clearly teaches that each church should have more than one elder. The Bible uses the terms “pastor,” “elder,” and “overseer” to refer to what we call the elder ministry. The Bible does not differentiate between staff elders from lay elders in the work of shepherding the church. Both staff elders and lay elders act as one team and should equally share in working together for the glory of Christ.

The Work of a Biblical Elder

The Bible employs the metaphor of a “shepherd” 25X to refer to God in his care for his people (Gen. 48:15; Psa. 23:1; 28:9; 78:81; 80:1; Ecc. 12:11; Isa. 40:11; Jer. 31:10; 43:12; Ezek. 34:23; 37:24; Zech. 11:16; Matt. 2:6; 25:32; 26:31; Mark 14:27; John 10:2, 11, 12, 14, 16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4; Rev. 5:4; 7:17).

The Bible also applies this figure of speech 12X in both noun and verb form to refer to human spiritual leaders who care for God’s people (2 Sam. 5:2; 7:7; 1 Chron. 11:2; 17:6; Ezek. 24:7, 8; Micah 7:17; Zech. 11:17; John 21:16; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:2).

The Scriptures lament 7X that the people are “like sheep without a shepherd” or that they have “no shepherd” (Num. 27:17; 1 Kings 22:17; 2 Chron. 18:18; Ezek. 34:5; Zech. 10:2; Matt. 6:34; Mark 9:36).

This is the description God gives to describe the great spiritual poverty and vulnerability of his people. The fullness of this term and its dominance in the Bible commends it for use in describing spiritual leaders within the church.

God Himself chooses this metaphor of “shepherd” to help us understand the role and responsibilities of the pastor/elder in a local church. Therefore, when we consider the responsibilities of an elder, it is right to consider deeply the responsibilities of a shepherd toward their sheep. These responsibilities are many and varied.

We believe that the duties of the elder in the local church can be summarized with these two broad categories; leading the flock of God (1 Tim. 5:17) and shepherding the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:1-3). For the sake of simplicity, we divide the responsibilities of the shepherd in his care for the sheep into these two broad categories:

1. The shepherd is responsible to lead the sheep
2. The shepherd is responsible to care for or to “shepherd” the sheep

LEADING THE FLOCK OF GOD

Every elder is responsible for leading the whole of the local church (Heb. 13:7, 13; 1 Tim. 5:17). These leadership responsibilities include leading the flock by:

1. Discerning and pursuing God's spiritual direction for the whole church.
2. Communicating to the whole church the vision and plan that God has given the elders.
3. Overseeing the financial and staffing practices and decisions of the church.

The elders will accomplish these responsibilities of leadership primarily through prayer and applying biblical principles (Acts 6:4). In addition, the elders must have an ability (competence) in planning and carrying out administrative affairs.

The goal of the leading work of the elders' hands is to facilitate each member of the church working properly together so that the church builds itself up in love. Elders lead the church to keep Christ the center of the whole church so that the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

NAU **Ephesians 4:16**

from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK OF GOD

Every elder is also responsible for shepherding the whole of the local church (1 Pet. 5:1-3). These shepherding responsibilities include feeding, nurturing, tending and protecting the flock by . . .

1. Teaching God's word and sound doctrine clearly and faithfully to each member of the church (1 Tim. 3:2)
2. Correcting those members who believe false doctrine (2 Tim. 2:25)
3. Confronting those who teach false doctrine to the local church (Tit. 1:9)
4. Counseling those members in the church who are in distress (Rom. 15:14)

5. Comforting those members in the church who are in despair (2 Cor. 1:3-7)
6. Equipping each member for service to the Lord (Eph. 4:11-12)
7. Witnessing to the lost (2 Cor. 5:20; Matt. 28:19-20)

The goal of the shepherding work of the elders' hands is to present every member of the church as mature in Christ (Col. 1:28). Without skill in shepherding, the elder is unable to effectively help the church to glorify God.

The work of a biblical elder in the church of Jesus Christ can be divided into three critical elements; the head, heart, and hands. Another way to categorize these are content, character, and competence. Each of these areas will be described below:

The Head (Content)

—An elder is equipped with the “head” (content) of a spiritual shepherd.

Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind (Matt. 22:37). The elder must model obedience to this command over a long period of time to be qualified to lead others. Christianity builds all of life on the foundation of God's truth as revealed in God's Word. The elder's mind must be saturated with scripture so that sound doctrine and truth saturate his whole person. Only in this way would an elder be “able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2) and able to warn God's flock against “wolves” who teach false doctrine in the church (Acts 20:26-31).

Various areas of content that must be understood by an elder:

- Bible knowledge
- Redemptive history
- Evangelism, the definition of, and nature of the Gospel
- A biblical worldview and the contrasting secular worldviews
- Systematic Theology (doctrines)
- Hermeneutics
- Counseling “one another” (Rom. 15:14)
- Biblical instruction on marriage and family life
- The Christ Baptist Church doctrinal statement

A biblical elder is committed to personal growth in knowledge and grace.

NAU **2 Peter 3:17-18**

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

NAU **2 Peter 1:5-8**

⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if these *qualities are yours and are increasing*, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Proficiency:

A biblical elder at CBC must demonstrate an ability to describe and defend the essential and non-essential differences between CBC's beliefs and philosophy of ministry and other common denominations and religions.

Questions to ask every Elder and Elder candidate relating to the head (content)

1. Have you read the following documents? Do you have any disagreements?
 - a. The CBC Constitution
 - b. The CBC Doctrinal Statement
 - c. The CBC Philosophy of Ministry statements
2. Are you in hearty agreement with the articulation of biblical truth and the philosophy of ministry that comes from the pulpit and all other associated teaching ministries of CBC?
3. What are the most significant books that you have read in your life? In the past year?
4. As you consider the responsibilities of the eldership, how do you see yourself responding to the admonition of 2 Pet. 3:2 to "shepherd the flock of God among you, not under compulsion, but voluntarily...not for sordid gain but with eagerness?"
5. Have you ever discipled anyone in the past year? The past 3 years?
6. How have you demonstrated your ability to teach the Word of God to believers in the past year? The past 3 years?
7. Explain your Bible reading program.

The Heart (Character)

—An elder is equipped with the "heart" of a spiritual shepherd. He loves God with all his heart and he loves people with deep spiritual concern for their soul. The elder's ministry is primarily one of love. The elder is a man whose heart has matured in Christ-like character through his walking in love over a long period of time (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9). He joyfully obeys God in all things. He is willing to lay down his life

for God's sheep. He does not serve out of obligation, but out of genuine affection for God's people.

Paul gave voice to the elder's heart when he wrote to the Thessalonian believers, "But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." (1 Thess. 2:7-8) This loving heart readies the elder to tirelessly labor both day and night in order to bring spiritual blessing to God's people.

Various areas of godly character that must be demonstrated by an elder:

- Prayer life
- Submission and teachability
- Concern for the growth or stumbling of others
- Reputation among those outside the church
- Reputation among those inside the church
- Marriage relationship
- Emotions
- Stewardship of time and resources
- Desires and motivations

NAU **Proverbs 4:23**

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.

NAU **Mark 7:21-23**

²¹ "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. ²³ "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

NAU **Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Proficiency:

A humble willingness to respond to correction and engage in biblical conflict resolution, to personally sacrifice for the sake of Jesus Christ and His people, and to maintain proper relational priorities in the face of ministry demands.

This proficiency can be seen in the following areas:

PURITY—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him by growing in a lifestyle of repentance that includes progress in personal purity, holiness, and perseverance through persecution and suffering so that they might be found faithfully walking in

the grace of Christ at the end of life [Matt. 5:8, 10-12; 1 Thess. 4:3-7; Heb. 10:36; 1 Pet. 2:19-21, 4:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17]

THANKFULNESS—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him by growing in an attitude of thanksgiving, gratitude, and worship in every aspect of their life [Matt. 5:5-6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18]

DEVOTION—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him in a lifestyle of spiritual communion through disciplined Bible reading and prayer in recognition of their dependent need for God’s wisdom and help in their daily life [Matt. 5:3; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:15-21; Col. 3:16].

DISCERNMENT—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him by resting in their identity in Christ and being fully assured of God’s faithfulness to his promises such that they have the freedom to admit their weaknesses and confess and repent of sin without feeling judged and condemned by others [Matt. 5:4; Col. 1:9, 4:12; Heb. 4:9-11; 1 John 1:7, 9].

SHARING—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him by stewarding their time, talents, and treasure in Christ-centered worship – putting God first, living within their means, and embracing generosity as a core value in their life [2 Cor. 8:1-7].

Questions to ask every Elder and Elder candidate relating to the heart (character)

1. How did you come to know Jesus Christ?
 - a. Explain the teaching, preaching, or evangelism involved
 - b. Explain the experience relative to awareness and conviction
2. What are your personal and family spiritual disciplines / devotional practices?
3. Why do you want to be in the Leadership (Elder) Development Process?
4. How does your wife respond to the idea of you serving as an Elder at CBC?
5. Have you ever been accused of, engaged in, or investigated for any sexual misconduct involving a minor or an adult?
6. Have you ever been convicted of, or pled guilty or “no Contest” to any criminal offense?
7. Have you ever been found liable, or participated in and out of court settlement as a defendant, for any offence in a civil lawsuit?
8. Have you ever been subject to discipline by a religious body?

9. How would you describe your relationship with your wife, her spiritual condition, and her participation in your ministry?
10. Would you say that you are above reproach [1 Tim. 3:2; “blameless” from Tit. 1:6]? Is there anything that remains unresolved from your past? Is there anything in your present behavior, that if it were to come to light, would bring reproach upon the Lord of the church or the eldership?
11. Are you the husband of one woman [1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6]? Have you been divorced and remarried? Explain the situation if so. Have you been and are you now faithful to your wife? Explain your marital situation.
12. Are you temperate [1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8]? That is, do you have self-control [Tit. 1:8] over your physical appetites [food, drink, sex]? Do you have an addiction or control problem with alcohol [1 Tim. 3:3; Tit 1:7]? That is, are you in bondage to food, alcohol, drugs, leisure, or any form of pornography?
13. Are you sensible [1 Tim. 3:2]? Explain. How do you know that you have good judgment? Do you see things as they really are, knowing yourself well, and understanding people and how they respond? Is there a big gap between what you see in yourself and what others see in you?
14. Are you dignified [1 Tim. 3:2]? That is, do you tend to avoid offending against propriety or stepping on toes unnecessarily? Are respectable people glad to be associated with you?
15. Are you hospitable [1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8]? Is your home open for ministry? In what ways do you make newcomers feel “at home?”
16. Are you prone to violence or anger [1 Tim. 3:3]? Is your temper under control both in public and at home or are you quick tempered [Tit. 1:7]? Is there unresolved bitterness or resentments in your life?
17. Are you gentle [1 Tim. 3:3]? Do you tend to generate a conflict within the church through your words, attitudes and actions, or do you initiate efforts toward reconciliation and peacemaking?
18. Do you have any tendencies towards the love of money [1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7]? Does your lifestyle reflect a love of luxury? Are you a generous giver? Are you anxious about your financial future? Are you content with what you possess?
19. Do you manage your household well [1 Tim. 3:4-5; Tit. 1:6]? Would you say that your children are submissive and well-disciplined? Would other say that your children are submissive and well-disciplined? Does your wife feel respected and tenderly loved?

20. If you are a lay-person who is an employee or employer, how would your co-workers describe your character [1 Tim. 3:7]? Do you meet and surpass the standards of the world for decency and respectability?
21. What is your reputation with outsiders [1 Tim. 3:7]?
22. Are you uptight [Tit. 1:8]? That is, do you care whether people are treated fairly? Do you want to see justice in the world at all levels?
23. Are you holy [Tit. 1:8]? That is, are you a person of devotion to Jesus Christ? Explain. Do you love worship and have a deep personal relationship with the Lord evidenced by the purity of your thoughts, speech and behavior?
24. Are you regularly being nourished on the words of faith [1 Tim. 4:6]? How satisfying and regular is your personal devotional life of prayer and study of God's Word?
25. After reading *The Marks of a Spiritual Leader* [by John Piper], do you believe that article fairly describes you and/or captures your passions?
26. When was your conversion? Do you consider that to be recent in the course of your spiritual life [1 Tim 3:6]? What effect do you anticipate your serving as an elder would have on your growth in humility?
27. Have you ever seen yourself as arrogant [Tit. 1:7]? How often do you speak of yourself or your achievements?
28. Do you aspire to the office of elder [1 Tim. 3:1]? Why? Do you desire the work of overseeing souls? Why or why not? How often, and in what way does this desire presently manifest itself?

The Hands (Competence)

—An elder is equipped with the “hands” of a spiritual shepherd. The shepherd must be skilled to do the work of an elder effectively. He must be skilled in teaching God's word (1 Tim. 3:2), in gently correcting those who believe false doctrine (2 Tim. 2:25), in confronting those who teach false doctrine (Tit. 1:9), in counseling those in distress (Rom. 15:14), in comforting those in despair (2 Cor. 1:3-7), in leading the whole church in worship to God (Heb. 13:7, 13; 1 Tim. 5:17), and in witnessing to the lost (2 Cor. 5:20; Matt. 28:19-20). The goal of the work of the elders' hands is to present every member of the church as mature in Christ (Col. 1:28). Without skilled hands, the elder is unable to effectively help the church to glorify God.

Various areas of godly competence that must be demonstrated by an elder:

- Teaching and exhorting others in and by the Word of God

- Gently correcting those who believe in false doctrine
- Boldly confronting those who teach false doctrine in the church
- Stewarding spiritual gifts to the church
- Practicing worship
- Hospitality
- Counseling
- Growing in love for one another

Proficiency:

A humble willingness to serve others in the body with an aim of equipping each saint for the work of the ministry, and using discernment to determine where saints can fit in the church body and best serve the needs of the biblical community.

This proficiency can be demonstrated in the following areas:

ACTIVE—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him by actively and cheerfully volunteering in God’s church, and to be wholeheartedly engaged in her supernatural worship, ministries, and participation in the Lord’s Table [Matt. 5:7; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:10-11].

RELATIONAL—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him in Christ-centered relationships with others that are humble, submissive, forgiving, and permeated with the love of Christ in every friend, dating, marriage, and parenting relationship [Matt. 5:9; Eph. 4:3, 6:5-8; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pet. 2:13-17].

EVANGELISTIC—God desires for every partner of CBC to enjoy Him to the extent that they are compelled to intentionally and compassionately share Christ with others and feel responsibility for making disciples in their own families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and active participation in both local and global missions [Matt. 5:13-16, 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:20].

Questions to ask every Elder and Elder candidate relating to the hands (competence)

1. How long have you attended CBC?
2. How long have you been a member of CBC?
3. What ministries and/or offices have you held in the past, including other churches? If you left a church before coming to CBC, why did you leave?
4. What giftedness, experiences, or training have you had which could prove helpful in your ministry?
5. List any hindrances or disqualifications to your pursuit of serving?

6. Are there elders who you would prefer to disciple you? Are there any that you would want to avoid?
7. Have you experienced Christian baptism [by immersion] as a knowledgeable believer? When?
8. What will need to be removed from your schedule to make room for the significant time commitment that goes with entering into the leadership development process?
9. As God gives opportunity, would you consider yourself a bold and effective witness for Christ?
10. How do you perceive your gifts, personality type, and interpersonal communication skills as they relate to the eldership?
11. Are you a capable teacher of the Word of God [1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9]? That is, do you know biblical doctrine well and are you able to explain it to people? Do you have the theological grid in your thinking to spot serious error and to show a person why it is wrong and harmful? Do you have teaching skills?
12. How difficult would it be for you to voice a question or express disagreement with a doctrinal ministry issue, even if it was held by the majority of the elders?

Practical Requirements of Eldership

Christ Baptist Church

An elder is a recognized (1 Tim 5:22), God-called (Eph 4:7, 11) servant-leader (1 Peter 5:1-3) in Jesus' church (Acts 14:23), equipped with the head (Matt 22:37), heart (1 Thess 2:7-8; Titus 1:7-9), and hands (Col 1:28-29; 1 Tim 3:1-7) of a spiritual shepherd, who serves alongside other elders in the church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).

The primary function of an elder of Christ Baptist Church is the promotion and proclamation of the Gospel. It is not primarily to provide financial, staffing, and/or wisdom decisions for the church. These are all important, but they are secondary. Resource (finances, staffing, assets) decisions could easily be accomplished by deacons or other church members who have the appropriate giftedness in management and administration.

The elders of CBC are to lead the church spiritually and practically by example. Their primary focus is the teaching of God's Word to the flock and prayer (Acts 6:4). The elders' readiness for spiritual leadership in the matters of personal character and spiritual maturity can be categorized by *Head, Heart, and Hands*.

Head

Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind (Matt. 22:37). CBC elders must model obedience to this command as a manner of habitual practice to be qualified to lead others. Christianity builds all of life on the foundation of God's truth as revealed in God's Word. The elder's mind must be saturated with Scripture so that sound doctrine and truth saturate his whole person. Only in this way would an elder be "able to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2) and be able to warn God's flock against "wolves" who teach false doctrine in the church (Acts 20:26-31).

A CBC elder must demonstrate proficiency in the following:

- Have a full understanding and complete affirmation of the CBC full doctrinal statement for leaders (What we teach)
- Bible knowledge
 - Have an understanding and awareness of the themes of the books of the Bible and their place in redemptive history
 - Demonstrate a love for God's Word in daily devotion growth in meditation, discussion, and application
- Theology and Doctrine
 - Have an ability to describe and biblically defend the core doctrines of evangelical Christianity and what the Bible says about God, Jesus

- Christ, the Holy Spirit, angels, demons and Satan, man, sin, salvation, church leadership and polity, and the end times
 - Demonstrate an ability to biblically teach through the CBC doctrinal statement
- Practical Theology
 - Demonstrate an ability to biblically counsel both church members and adherents as well as outsiders using Scripture
 - Understand the core differences between Biblical Counselling and secular approaches to solving sanctification issues
 - Understand the core differences between CBC theology and doctrines and other “local” religions and denominations (both heretical and non-heretical groups)
- Spiritual Leadership
 - Be able to describe the biblical requirements of an elder, deacon, and pastor—and their relationships to each other and the church body

Heart

While the “head” is about the mind and knowledge, the “heart” is about the passion and commitment. This is not something that can be quantified, but is mostly viewed qualitatively. The best way to assess the heart is through elder commitment.

The CBC elder should be committed to visibly support and participate in the core ministries of the church, and to lead the flock spiritually by example.

Core Ministries

- Sunday morning service
- Sunday evening service
- Weekly home Bible Study

Vital Ministries

- Faith Builders
- Iron Men
- Soul Soup
- Benevolence work
- Samaria Mission
- Christ Seminary
- Personal Discipleship

Hands

The “head” is about knowledge of the Gospel and associated doctrines, the “heart” is about passion and commitment to the Gospel and associated doctrines, and the

“hands” is a demonstration of a giftedness and application of the Gospel and associated doctrines in all manner of life.

The CBC elder should continually demonstrate a proficiency in the following:

- Since it is a biblical requirement that elders disciple others to grow in the Word of God and godliness, every CBC elder should be in a discipleship relationship
- Be able to teach the Word of God accurately—this does not mean preaching or possessing a giftedness in teaching—it is just being able to accurately and wisely explaining the Word of God and applying it to daily life
- Maintain a regular devotional life of prayer and study of God’s Word
- The CBC elder should be applying his commitment to the Gospel to his family, and his family should exhibit a reverence and obedience to the faith and be in order
- Be able to effectively witness to unbelievers, and to accurately and gracefully refute any false doctrine that can arise within the church or home Bible Study

Summary

While qualifications, qualities, and demonstration of necessary proficiencies are critical to the role of a biblical elder, in total they do not make one capable of being an elder. First and foremost, a biblical elder must have an attitude and life that demonstrates a love for the word and a love for Christ in his attitude towards people.

A biblical elder will always be immersed in the ministries of the local church. Before someone could be considered to become an elder, they must currently be serving in the body and active in local ministry. This activity must demonstrate a high level of spiritual maturity, knowledge, and wisdom, with a mind towards discipleship.