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| An elder must be above reproach in his reputation | | |
| in his personal life, | in his home, | and with the community. |
| 1. Husband of one wife  2. Temperate (self-controlled)  3. Prudent (sensible)  4. Respectable  5. Hospitable  6. Not addicted to wine  7. Not Pugnacious  8. Gentle (good)  9. Uncontentious (not self-willed)  10. Free from the love of money (not fond of sordid gain)  11. Not a new convert  12. Holding fast the faithful word  13. Not quick-tempered  14. Loving what is good  15. Just  16. Devout | 1. Manage his household well  2. Keeping his children under control with all dignity  3. Having children who believe  Their wives must be:  1. Dignified  2. Not malicious gossips  3. Temperate  4. Faithful in all things | 1. Must have a good reputation with those outside the church  2. Not accused of dissipation/rebellion |
| He must be gifted spiritually in the areas of oversight (leadership), shepherding (personal care), and teaching. | | |

The elder’s function and responsibilities can be summed up in the following passages.[[1]](#footnote-1) In Acts 6:1-7 they are to devote themselves to the Word and to prayer. In Acts 20:28 the command is to shepherd the church of God. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 they have charge over the church in the Lord and give instruction. In 1 Timothy 5:17 they are said to rule, preach, and teach. In Hebrews 13:17 they are said to watch over the souls of the saints. And in 1 Peter 5:1-5 they are “to shepherd the flock of God among you” by “exercising oversight” over the matters of the church. In short, then the elder/overseer/pastor is to (1) lead the church in the direction it should go. This includes the ministry activities the church takes on. (2) They are to ensure that the sheep are getting a balanced diet of sound teaching and doctrine. And (3) they are to care for the spiritual needs of the sheep. I sum this concept up in my doctrinal paper this way: Elders are responsible to oversee the teaching ministry and general health of the church family.

1. Other Passages that mention church elders: Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23; 16:4; 21:18; James 5:14; Overseers: Philippians 1:1; Pastor/shepherd: Eph. 4:11; John 21:16. None of these texts add anything new to the discussion. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)