

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

* Ultimately **Jesus Christ leads His church**

- He **has all authority**

He is the:

- **Leader**

#2519 **καθηγητής** *kathegetes*

= **master, teacher, guide**

= used **only of Jesus Christ in the NT**

- **Head**

- **Shepherd**

- the **Good Shepherd**

- the **Great Shepherd of the sheep**

- the **Shepherd of your souls**

- **Overseer, Guardian**

(Mt 28:18, 23:10; Eph 4:15, 5:23; Col 1:18, 2:19;

Jn 10:11, 14, 15; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 2:25)

* Jesus Christ **determines human leaders by gifting and calling for His church on earth**

1. **Elders**

#4245 **πρεσβύτερος** *presbuteros*

= a **term of rank or office**

= **rulers of the people, judges etc.**

= among Christians – **those who preside over the assemblies or churches**

- in **every city, in every church elders were to be appointed**

- **discerned with prayer and fasting and commending them to the Lord**

FOCUS: the leadership of the church the dignity of the office

(Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23)

2. **Overseers**

#1985 **ἐπίσκοπος** *episkopos*

= **men charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly**

= **any curator, guardian or superintendent**

= **the elder or guardian of a Christian Church**

- have been **made overseers by the Holy Spirit**

FOCUS: the oversight of a church's entire ministry and practice

- **the authority and duty of the office**

(Titus 1:7; Acts 20:28)

3. **Shepherds**

#4166 **ποιμήν** *poimen*

= a **herdsman caring for flocks**

= **the pastor or minister of a church**

- are **to shepherd the church of God**

- the **task of ancient shepherds was to**

a) **watch for any enemies of the sheep**

b) **defend the sheep when attacked**

c) **heal wounded or sick sheep**

d) **find and save lost or trapped sheep**

e) **love, nurture and care for the sheep**

FOCUS: the care and well-being of the believers so they mature and thrive spiritually

(Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11)

4. **Leaders**

#2233 **ἐπιτροπεύω ἡγέομαι** *hegeomai*

= to **lead, rule, command, go before**

= verb – **in the middle voice of a strengthened form**

FOCUS: the example before the church; those always in front showing and leading the way

(Heb 13:17, 24; Rom 12:8)

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

The qualifications of an elder:

- above reproach
- the husband of one wife
- temperate
- prudent
- respectable
- hospitable
- able to teach
- gentle
- peaceable
- free from the love of money
- a good manager of his household
- a good reputation outside
-
-
-
-
-

NOT:

- addicted to wine
- pugnacious
- a new convert
-
-

- above reproach
- the husband of one wife
-
- sensible
-
- hospitable
-
-
-
- not fond of sordid gain
-
-
- having children who believe
- loving what is good
- just
- devout
- self-controlled

NOT:

- addicted to wine
- pugnacious
-
- self-willed
- quick-tempered