

## Lesson 20 Elders Notes

1 Peter 5:1-2 Seems Peter is addressing the Elders

1 The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a **fellow elder** and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

Elder Πρεσβυτέρους Pres-bu-teros

2 **Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly

Shepherd Ποιμάνετε ποιμαίνω

1. To herd and tend flocks of sheep or goats
2. Guide and help or take care of with the implication of providing for  
Matt 2:6
3. To rule with the implication of direct personal involvement  
Rev 2:27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' — from Psa 2

### 3. Overseer

Overseer ἐπισκοποῦντες ἐπισκοπέω

1. To take care of or tend with the implication of continuous responsibility
2. To give careful consideration to something with the implication of guarding against
3. To minister or serve

Notice how Peter uses “**among you**.” He wants to make sure that everyone knows that the elders are **NOT** separate from the congregation but part of it.

### Historical Use of Elders

1. They represent the entire people of a community in political or religious activity
2. They are associated with the leader in some way
3. They appear as a governing body
4. They are clearly a part of the royal council in 1 & 2 Kings
5. They serve as a judicial body

\* Notice that the “people” and elders are the same in Jos 24:1

### Qualifications of an Elder 1 Tim 3:1-7

### Must be: δεῖ

Blameless ἀνεπίληπτος good conduct

the husband of one wife,

temperate, νηφάλιος using associated with alcoholic use...sober clear headed...self-control

sober-minded, σωφρονέω be in the right mind (Mark 5:15 after he was healed, “in his right mind”

of good behavior, κόσμιος respectable...would use inscriptions to honor someone

hospitable, φιλόξενος lover of strangers

able to teach; διδακτικός skilled in teaching

not given to wine, πάριονος drunken, addicted to wine

not violent, πλήκτης pugnacious, bully

not greedy for money, ἀφιλάγυρος not a lover of money

gentle, ἄμαχος peaceable...used in inscriptions on graves

not quarrelsome, ἐπιεικής graciousness customary gentleness

not covetous; same as ἀφιλάγυρος

one who rules his own house well, προϊστήμι to be head of, can be an official office

not a novice νεότητος a youthful person

## **Must δεῖ**

have a good testimony among those who are outside

δεῖ δὲ καὶ **μαρτυρίαν** καλὴν ἔχειν ἀπὸ τῶν ἑξωθεν,

ἵνα μὴ εἰς ὀνειδισμόν ἐμπέσῃ καὶ παγίδα τοῦ διαβόλου.