

6. He must be able to teach/give instruction in sound doctrine (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9). He must know the Word enabling him to instruct others in the truth.

7. He must not be a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7). He must not overuse or become addicted to wine or any other substance.

8. He must not be violent or quick-tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7). Gentleness should mark his character.

9. He must not be quarrelsome (1 Tim. 3:3). He stands where the Scriptures stand, but never argues simply to win a fight.

10. He is not greedy or a lover of money (1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7,8). He is motivated by love, not material gain.

11. He must manage his household well (1 Tim. 3:4-5; Tit. 1:6). He is the leader of his home. His wife respects him, and his children submit to his authority.

12. He must not be a recent convert (1 Tim. 3:6). He must have a proven maturity of faith and track record of ministry.

13. He must not be proud (1 Tim. 3:6; Tit. 1:7). He seeks to put other's interests above his own.

14. He must be a lover of good (Tit. 1:8). He is always thinking on those things that are excellent and right.

15. He must be holy and disciplined (Tit. 1:8). He seeks to live by God's standard no matter the cost.

16. He must hold firm to the trustworthy Word (Tit. 1:9). He is not easy or quickly swayed by new doctrines.

17. He is well thought of by outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7). He is a blessing to those around him.

Entrust—2 Timothy 2:2

If you desire to be an elder, we encourage you to join Entrust, a discipling ministry designed to help prepare men for spiritual leadership. Entrust involves theological reading, one-on-one discipleship with one of our current elders, and practical ministry experiences.

For more details about Entrust, please contact our Elder chairman. He will provide you with all that you need to begin preparing for this ministry.

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FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

**BIBLICAL
DISTINCTIVES
SERIES**

**THE ROLE AND
QUALIFICATIONS
FOR ELDERS**



**MAKING DISCIPLES
BUILDING COMMUNITY**

IF ANYONE ASPIRES TO THE OFFICE OF OVERSEER, HE DESIRES A NOBLE TASK.—1 TIMOTHY 3:1

Faith Community Church is an elder-led church. Our elders exercise spiritual oversight and leadership for the people God has entrusted to our care.

We believe that the Scriptures outline a pattern of shared leadership for the structure of the local church (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; 20:17). A plurality of elders is needed since no one pastor has all the gifts necessary for the growth of the church or the time necessary to shepherd the entire flock. Further, a plurality of elders helps ensure that decisions affecting church direction are the result of collective, prayerful, Spirit-submitted discernment of God's will and not the result of any one man's personal bias or preference.

THE ROLE OF ELDERS

Our elders are not an executive board with the primary role of making decisions. The primary role of an elder is to shepherd, or pastor, the flock of God (1 Peter 5:1-5). As shepherds, the elders focus on four main responsibilities:

1. Protecting the flock. (Acts 20:28-31). They must refute error (Titus 1:9), confront sin (Gal. 6:1; Titus 1:13), and judge doctrine (Acts 15:6). An elder must know the Word and be able to defend it against error.
2. Feeding the flock (2 Tim. 4:1-4). This involves the teaching of the Word (Acts 6:4) in public preaching, smaller settings, and/or one-on-one discipling and counseling. An elder does not have to be primarily gifted in pulpit preaching, but must possess the gift of teaching that draws others to look to him for instruction.
3. Leading the flock (1 Peter 5:1-3). They set the vision and direction for the church by setting the example for others (1 Pet. 5:3), training up new leaders (2 Tim. 2:2), and directing the people with a spirit of love (John 10:3-5). An elder must lead the sheep by the example of his own life and the willingness to lovingly direct others.
4. Loving the flock (John 10:11). They must pray for the flock (Acts 6:4), visit the sick (James 5:14), humbly serve others (1 Pet. 5:5), and help the weak (Acts 20:35). An elder must sacrificially care for the flock.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ELDER

The Apostle Paul gave specific qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Below is a compilation of qualifications:

1. He must be above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6). This is not to say he must be perfect. But his character must be such that he does not bring reproach upon the name of Christ or His church.
2. He must be the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6). We believe that the qualification of being "the husband of one wife" speaks primarily to the man's current moral purity—that he is a "one-woman" man. It is his character, not his marital status, which Paul highlights. A single man or a widower is not unqualified to serve. Furthermore, a past divorce does not necessarily disqualify a man either. However, the potential candidate's reputation, if blemished, must be restored by his faithful conduct over a significant period of time so that it could accurately be said of him that he is above reproach and well thought of by outsiders (1 Tim. 3:2, 7).
3. He must be sober-minded and self-controlled (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8). He must not be given to extremes or addictions.
4. He must be respectable and upright (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8). Others must see his conduct as faithful and consistent with the gospel.
5. He must be hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8). He is a "lover of guests."

