



**Acts 14:21-23**

What leadership model do Paul and Barnabas follow in establishing these churches? What would the term “elder” have meant in the culture of that time? (*Ex 19:7; Num 11:16-17*)

What kind of matters were handled by the “elders” of a city in Israelite culture? (*Deut 21:1-9, 18-21; 22:13-19; 25:5-10*)

Where was the common gathering place for the elders of a city? (*Prov 31:23*)

What principles does this teach us about the role of “elders” within the local church?

**Acts 20:17, 28-31; 1 Pet 5:1-4**

What other terms and images are used in these passages to describe the work of local elders?

What kind of day-to-day responsibilities would be involved in the work of a shepherd? (*Psalms 23:1-4; Ezek 34:1-16*)

What type of tasks would involve giving personal attention to individual sheep? How close and personal would a shepherd’s relationship with his sheep need to be? How might this apply in the local church?

What kind of tasks would involve interaction with the flock as a whole? How might this apply in the local church?

What kind of qualities would a shepherd need to be most effective in this work? Do you see any of these qualities reflected in the descriptions of **1 Tim 3:1-7** or **Tit 1:5-9**?

**1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12 (Tit 1:6)**

Why is managing one's household / children well a requirement for both elders and deacons?

What day-to-day tasks are involved in managing one's household / children well?

What kind of relationship will a good father develop with his children? What kind of personal interactions are needed for a father to raise his children well? How might this apply in the local church?

What more impersonal responsibilities are involved in managing one's household well? How might this apply in the local church?

Do you see any difference in what aspects of household management are emphasized for elders (**1 Tim 3:4-5; Tit 1:6**) and for deacons (**1 Tim 3:12**)?

What qualities does a father need to be most effective as a spiritual leader of his home? (*consider Eph 6:4; Col 3:21; Heb 12:9-13*) Do you see any of these qualities reflected in the descriptions of **1 Tim 3:1-7** or **Tit 1:5-9**?