**Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7)**

Job ads

‘Whatever the leaders are, the people become. As Hosea said: “Like people, like priest.” (Hosea 4:9). Jesus said, “Everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40). Biblical history demonstrates that people will seldom rise above the spiritual level of their leadership.’ – John MacArthur

Not a matter of indifference! So what kind of elders is God looking for?

Elders, overseers & pastors: functionally the same

Acts 20:17, 28 / 1 Peter 5:1-2

**1. Elders are people who aspire to godliness (v1)**

v.1 – distasteful and arrogant?

*Why* it’s a noble task!

**2. Elders are people who model godliness… (v2-7)**

Wide & deep & long

i. …in their overall conduct

* temperate
* self-controlled
* respectable
* gentle
* not quarrelsome

ii. …in having rightly ordered loves

* faithful to his wife / a “one-woman man”
* not given to drunkenness
* not a lover of money
* a gentle love for people = hospitable

iii. …in their family life

* manage his own family well

iv ….with a track record

* above reproach
* a good reputation with outsiders
* not a recent convert

**3. Elders are people who are “able to teach” (v2)**

i. knows what to teach/not to teach

ii. able to hold on to sound teaching and refute error (cf. Titus 1:9)

iii. ability to communicate

Some differentiation/flexibility allowed (cf. 1 Tim. 5:17-18)

**Bottom line: Elders are people who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**