

La Crosse Assembly Bible Reading on Overseers - January 31, 2010

1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Eph. 4:11-12; Acts 20:28; 1 Thess. 5; Heb. 13;

Overseer, Bishop (episkopos) indicates the nature of the spiritual work that they do.

Elder (presbuteros) indicates the maturity of spiritual experience they have.

Pastor, Shepherd (poimēn) indicates the leadership and spiritual care they give.

- I. The **Atmosphere** of the Overseer – Where does he serve? 1Tim 3; 1Pet. 5; Heb. 13
- II. The **Avenue** of the Overseer – How are they prepared? Acts 20:28
- III. The **Anatomy** of the Overseer – What makes him one?
 - A. Doctrinal Integrity – Skeletal System – Shapes the man
 - B. Moral Integrity – Muscular System – Powers the man
 - C. Spiritual Integrity – Respiratory System – Sustains the man
 - D. Relational Integrity – Nervous System – Prompts the man
 - E. Nutritional Integrity – Digestive System – Supplies the man
 - F. Separational Integrity – Immune System – Protects the man
 - G. Balanced Integrity – Endocrine System – Stabilizes the man
 - H. Motivational Integrity – Circulatory System – Propels the man
 - I. Testimonial Integrity – Integumentary System – Shows the man
- IV. The **Analysis** of the Overseer – Who fits the high standard? 1 Tim 3; Tit. 1
His Morals, His Manners, His Traits, His Testimony
- V. The **Authority** of the Overseer – Where does it come from?
- VI. The **Activity** of the Overseer – When does he begin?
- VII. The **Appreciation** of the Overseer – What is our attitude toward him?

Overseer's Responsibilities

- A. Shepherding – 1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28
- B. Watching – Heb. 13:17
- C. Leading – 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:4; 5:17
- D. Governing – Heb. 13:7,17,24; 1 Pet. 5:3;
- E. Steering – 1 Cor. 12: 28 “governments”-to steer;
(Acts 27:11 “master”-steersman)
- F. Laboring – 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17
- G. Stewarding – Tit 1:7; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:3

Our Responsibilities

- A. Submit to them- 1 Cor. 16:16
- B. Know them – 1 Thess. 5:12
- C. Esteem them – 1 Thess. 5:13
- D. Honor them – 1 Tim. 5:17
- E. Support them – 1 Tim 5:18
- F. Trust them – 1 Tim. 5:19
- G. Obey them – Heb. 13:17,
- H. Remember them – Heb. 13:7
- I. Greet them – Heb. 13:24
- J. Pray for them – Heb. 13:18; 1 Thess. 5:25;
2Thess. 3:1 (Wide application)

Questions to Consider

1. Can a brother's occupation interfere with or disqualify him from serving as an overseer?
2. Does a man ever “retire” or leave the responsibility of overseership?
3. Does a true overseer leave for months at a time on vacation?
4. Is the mentality of “get in good with the people in power and work your way up” of God?
5. What is to be done if the elder “feels” disqualified, but the believers do not agree that he is disqualified?
6. Are other assemblies obligated to respect elders who they may not see as true elders?
7. Are elders to be “controllers” of the assembly?
8. Can a brother who has been recovered after assembly discipline, become an elder?
9. Can a brother be an elder and not attend the elder's meeting?
10. If I disagree with an elder about a decision, what am I to do?
11. Are the “preachers” to be subject to the authority of the overseers?
12. What role do overseers have in developing gift in others?
13. When should transition within the elderhood take place? How?
14. What can be done if elders will not transition new elders whom others in the assembly recognize, even though they do not attend the elder's meeting?
15. Does being a racist disqualify a man from being an elder?