

Introduction

1. The church belongs to Christ as He purchased her with His own blood ([Ac. 20:28](#)).
 - a. Within this passage, we also see that the church is a flock that God has placed overseers to shepherd.
 - b. The overseers refer to the same group of qualified men known as “elders,” “bishops,” and “pastors/shepherds” (cf. [Ac. 20:17](#); [Tt. 1:5](#); [1 Tim. 3:1](#); [Eph. 4:11](#)).
2. We have already examined being committed to Christ who is the Head of the church ([Col. 1:18](#)).
 - a. It is our intention now to examine being committed to the church in the area of leadership.
 - b. In order to do this, we must first associate ourselves with a local congregation of Christians ([Ac. 9:26-30](#); cf. [Ac. 11:19-26](#), [13:1-3](#), [14:25-28](#)).

I. The Commitment of the Eldership

1. Elders are committed to shepherd the church ([Ac. 20:28](#); [1 Pt. 5:2](#)).
 - a. to feed (*poimaino* G4165 verb) translated as “rule” ([Mt. 2:6](#); [Rev. 2:27](#), [12:5](#), [19:15](#)), “feeding cattle” ([Lk. 17:7](#)), and “feedeth” ([1 Cor. 9:7](#)).
 - b. It is difficult to shepherd a member who is a “floater.”
2. Elders are committed to guard the flock from false teachers/enemies ([Ac. 20:29-31](#)).
 - a. The elders should be well equipped for handling this ([Tt. 1:9-11](#)).
3. Elders are committed to lead and rule the church ([Rm. 12:8](#)).
 - a. he that ruleth (*ho* G3588 definite article *proistemi* G4291 verb) translated as “rul(e)(ing)” ([1 Tim. 3:5](#), [12](#), [5:17](#)), “maintain” ([Tt. 3:8](#), [14](#)), and “over” ([1 Th. 5:12](#)).
 - b. Not as lords but examples ([1 Pt. 5:1-4](#)).
4. Elders are committed to watch out for our souls ([Heb. 13:17](#)).
 - a. watch (*agrypneo* G69 verb) literally it means to be sleepless thus to keep awake in order to watch.

II. The Commitment to the Eldership

1. The members are committed to count the elders who rule well worthy of double honor ([1 Tim. 5:17-18](#); [1 Th. 5:12-13](#)).
2. The members are committed to not hear accusations except at the mouth of two or three witnesses ([1 Tim. 5:19-20](#); cf. [Dt. 17:6](#); [Jn. 8:17](#)).
 - a. Anyone in a leadership position is subject to criticism.
 - b. Reliable and reputable witnesses are who Paul, Moses, and Jesus had in a mind ([Rm. 13:9](#); [Ex. 20:16](#); [Mt. 19:18](#)).
3. The members are committed to obey and respect them ([Heb. 13:17](#)).
 - a. Obey (*peitho* G3982 verb) “...means to be persuaded. Its force is that members will be persuaded by their spiritual overseers. Inhering in the comprehensive expression are trust and a willingness to be persuaded” (Taken from *The Elder and His Work* by Robert Taylor, Jr. pg. 125).
 - b. submit yourselves (*hypeiko* G5226 verb) “to resist no longer, but *to give way, yield*, (properly of combatants); metaphorically *to yield to authority and admonition, to submit*” (Thayer 638).

Conclusion

1. Qualifications are mandatory for the office of an elder ([1 Tim. 3:1-7](#); [Tt. 1:5-9](#)).
 - a. The home is a proving ground for the church ([1 Tim. 3:4-5](#); [Tt. 1:6](#)).
 - b. We must train younger men and women to be ready to serve as leaders in the future.
2. The leadership of the church is critical to the direction the congregation will go.
 - a. Generally speaking, the church will follow the direction of the leaders.
3. Let us be committed to the leadership and like Aaron and Hur of old (cf. [Ex. 17:12](#)), lift up their hands in the awesome responsibility God has given them!