

## **The Office of Elder**

How a congregation is governed is, in many respects, a defining attribute of churches and denominations as a whole. Denominations such as Episcopalian, Brethren, Congregational, and Presbyterian all get their names from the structure of leadership; specifically, how they are spiritually governed. As a presbyterian church, it is of particular importance that we understand the role and function of elders – ‘presbyters’ as biblically as we can!

1. The Nature of the Office
  - a. Necessity
  - b. Dignity
  - c. Plurality
2. Qualifications for the Office
  - a. Character
  - b. Doctrine
3. Function of the Office
  - a. The NT vocabulary:
    - i. Overseer – 1 Tim. 3:1-2; Titus 1:7
    - ii. Elder – Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17
  - b. The office in action: Acts 20
    - i. Protect
    - ii. Direct
    - iii. Correct

Application:

1. Do you welcome your elder’s ministry?
2. Will you pray for your elders regularly?