

Grace Crossing Church

Elder Role & Qualifications

Why Elders?

The church isn't designed to be carried by one person. Jesus is the Head of the Church (Col. 1:18), and He appoints elders to shepherd, guide, and protect His people (Acts 14:23). Healthy churches are led by a team of elders who share the load and care for the flock.

What Do Elders Do?

Elders are called to be shepherds (1 Peter 5:1–3).

- Lead & Guide – Helping the church follow Jesus' direction.
- Teach & Guard – Holding firm to God's Word, protecting against false teaching (Titus 1:9).
- Care & Shepherd – Walking with people through joys and struggles, modeling lives worth following (Heb. 13:17).
- Provide Oversight – Helping the church stay faithful to God's mission and steward resources wisely.

Think of elders as under-shepherds — serving under Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to care for His flock.

Who Qualifies to Be an Elder?

Being an elder is not about titles or popularity — it's about character and calling.

From 1 Timothy 3:1–7 & Titus 1:5–9:

An elder must be:

- Above reproach (a trustworthy example)
- Faithful to his wife
- Self-controlled, sober-minded, disciplined
- Hospitable, welcoming to others
- Able to teach God's Word (even in smaller settings)
- Gentle — not quick-tempered or violent
- Not greedy, but financially responsible
- A good manager of his household
- Humble, not arrogant
- Respected by outsiders
- Firm in the Word, sound in doctrine

Elders are not perfect — but their lives consistently reflect spiritual maturity, humility, and Christlike character (1 Cor. 11:1).