

The Function of Elders:

John 21:15-17 with First Peter 5:1.

- ❖ Feed the flock(my lambs) v. 15
- ❖ Shepherd My sheep v. 16
- ❖ Feed My sheep v. 17

- 1) Shepherd the flock 1 Pet.5:2, Acts 20:28,
1 Tim. 3:5
- 2) Teach and exhort 1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:9
- 3) Manage God's Church Titus 3:5
- 4) Be examples to the flock 1 Pet. 5:3
- 5) Stand up for the Truth Titus 1:9
- 6) Visit those in need James 1:27
- 7) Protect the flock Acts 20:29-31

The primary concern of the elders is the spiritual well-being of the Lord's flock.

How is the Church to be Organized?

Elder (also referred to as 'bishop' in the New Testament):

- ▶ The terms for bishop (*episkopos*) and elder (*presbuteros*) are used interchangeably in the New Testament. Acts 20:17 - elders (*presbuteros*) Acts 20:28 - bishops (*episkopos*)
- ▶ Definitions:
 - ▶ Elder - presbuteros from presbus - which speaks of an elder man. It is used of dignity, rank, or office. The Word lays special stress upon the maturity of the one so designated. This is a man who is seen as spiritually matured and characterized as one having dignity and wisdom.
 - ▶ Bishop or overseer - episkopos from episkopeo - to look upon, observe, examine. It addresses itself more to function or duty rather than character. It is translated superintendent, guardian, or overseer. The primary emphasis is that of duty or function of the man with reference to the Church.
- ▶ To summarize: The primary emphasis of *presbuteros* is on a man's character, and *episkopos* on the offices function.

Deacon:

Deacon is derived from a transliteration of the word *diakonos*. Its meaning is servant, attendant, minister.

It is associated with *doulos* - a bondman; *therapon* - a servant acting voluntarily; *huperetes* - a servant, attendant.

Within the Church, he is one who is actively engaged in service to others.

Function: Acts 6