



University CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Elders

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We here at University want to welcome you to services and are glad you came. If you are visiting us today please stay after services a brief moment so we might get the chance of meeting you and introducing ourselves to you. Again Welcome!

Please take a moment and review the back part of the bulletin to re-familiar ourselves of the biblical qualifications of elders. In addition please continue to pray during this selection process of finding willing men to serve this congregation here in a wonderful work. Next week on Sunday we will be passing out a sheet in which you may place the name of such qualified men who have the desire to serve as an elder.

Over the past few Sundays we have been reviewing our TRIALS in life and there is one thing we find is for sure, in the bible we as Christians all have them. Paul told Timothy "ALL" who live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer. Today we will be looking in the book of 1st Peter to answer the " what now" we find in our trials. There will be three things we will look at closer we can call the three "G's" its Guard our behavior, Grace your relationships, and Glorify God. Our text is found in 1st Peter Chapter 5.

Worship And Study Opportunities

Sunday:

Bible School.....9:30 A.M
Worship.....10:30 A.M
Evening Worship....6:00 P.M

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.....10:30 A.M.
Mid-Week Bible Class....7:00 P.M.

Over the next two weeks the elders have asked that members of this congregation to prayerfully and thoughtfully put forth names of qualified men to be an elder here at University. Following are the qualifications for the position of elder found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. That the eldership is a distinct duty is clearly seen in I Timothy 3:1, "It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do." It is a duty and a work that a man may aspire to hold. Interestingly, the Greek word translated as "aspires" means to stretch ones ability to obtain. Therefore, your average Christian is unable to qualify for the position. It takes effort on the part of the man desiring the office to stretch himself to his full abilities to live Christ-like in this present age. Not being perfect and still very much human. Pauls instruction to Titus also shows this duty to be a distinct office when Titus was instructed, "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you" (Titus 1:5). Men are placed in the position of an elder; they don't just happen to obtain the duty. Paul had given Titus specific directions on whom to appoint which he repeats in his letter to Timothy. Both the list in Titus and the one in Timothy tell us that men considered for the office of overseer must have certain attributes. These are not suggestions. The characteristics must be present. Only men with these attributes will be able to fulfill the duties God has prescribed for them to accomplish. Only men who have demonstrated the qualifications listed may be appointed.

Barnabas and Paul appointed those in Acts 14:23 "So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed". We can also use the examples from the appointment of the first deacons by those in the congregation recorded in Acts 6 "Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Even though the apostles were inspired men, they did not select the men to be appointed. Instead, the congregation was asked to select the men based on the qualifications given to them. Once the congregation selected the men, the apostles then appointed them to the position.

We have always had and will always strive to have great leadership here at University and we are looking for those qualified and desiring to help oversee and lead this congregation. "Willing to serve" and not "Lording over" but being and setting an example to those we serve.

Please pray as we consider closely these qualifications and consider men for this appointment as we look to add new men to this wonderful calling with scriptural consideration and of prayer.

The Elders

