

Functional Duties of an Elder for The Bible Church of Little Rock

Recognizing that the flock of The Bible Church of Little Rock has been entrusted to our care, the Council of Elders will therefore seek to regularly participate in the following leadership and shepherding ministries:

1. We desire to live above reproach as models and examples to our local body (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-12).
2. We desire (to the extent that health and schedule permits) to be in regular, faithful attendance at:
 - a. Morning worship services (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - b. Adult Equipping Hour classes (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 5:11-14) - hopefully, it would be the desire of each elder to teach in this venue
 - c. Elder Meetings (Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:5b; Hebrews 13:17)
3. We desire to faithfully shepherd the flock of God who have been entrusted to our care (1 Peter 5:1-5), believing that this primarily comes through our
 - a. functioning as teachers of Holy Scripture (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
 - b. and as overseers of Christ's Church (Acts 20:28).
 - c. this implies that we will seek to know and understand the current waves of heresy (Eph. 4:14),
 - d. as well as maintain a consistent and thorough study of Scripture,
 - e. seeking first to apply the Word of God to our own lives (1 Tim. 4:15-16)
 - f. and then to others (Phil. 4:9).
 - g. This should include both proactive and reactive shepherding (Acts 20:18-20; 31-33), with a priority toward ministering to those in our care including:
 - i. participating in hospital visitation (Matthew 25:31-40, especially v. 36c)
 - ii. providing hospitality in our homes (1 Timothy 3:3--"hospitable")
 - iii. giving counsel to others both formally and informally (Romans 15:14; 1 Cor. 4:14; Col. 1:28-29; 1 Thes. 5:12,14)
 - iv. keeping in touch with the spiritual pulse of our members (Prov. 27:23)
4. We believe that small group ministry (Care Groups) provides an excellent venue through which close care and accountability of our fellow members can take place. This care may include both proactive and reactive shepherding (Acts

20:18-20; 31-33), with a view toward ministering to those under our care in whatever ways and means we are able to do so.

- a. We desire (to the extent that health and schedule permits) to be in regular, faithful attendance in a Care Group unless a different ministry venue is otherwise affirmed by the Elders.
5. We desire to be involved in the discipleship of the men of our church (Mark 3:13-18; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 4:6-16). This can be accomplished through men's small group ministries, care group or one on one discipleship, mentoring, or counseling of men.

Scripture References:

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1) It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2) An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3) not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4) He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6) and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7) And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:6-9

6) namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7) For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, 8) but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9) holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-12

3) For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4) but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. 5) For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness— 6) nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of

Christ we might have asserted our authority. 7) But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8) Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. 9) For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10) You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11) just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, 12) so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24) And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25) not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Hebrews 5:11-14

11) Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13) For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Acts 6:4

4) "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

1 Timothy 3:5

5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

Hebrews 13:17

17) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

1 Peter 5:1-5

1) Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2) shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

1 Timothy 3:2

2) An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

Titus 1:9

9) holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Acts 20:28

28) "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Ephesians 4:14

14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1 Timothy 4:15-16

15) Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. 16) Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in

these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

Philippians 4:9

9) The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Acts 20:18-20

18) And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19) serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20) how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

Acts 20:31-33

31) "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32) "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33) "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.

Matthew 25:31-40

31) "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32) "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33) and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34) "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35) 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36) naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' 37) "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 38) 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39) 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40) "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

1 Timothy 3:3

3) not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

Romans 15:14

14) And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

1 Corinthians 4:14

14) I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

Colossians 1:28-29

28) We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29) For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

12) But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13) and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14) We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Proverbs 27:23

23) Know well the condition of your flocks, And pay attention to your herds;

Mark 3:13-18

13) And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. 14) And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, 15) and to have authority to cast out the demons. 16) And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), 17) and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); 18) and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot;

2 Timothy 2:1-26

1) You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2) The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3) Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4) No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5) Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 6) The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his

share of the crops. 7) Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. 8) Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9) for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10) For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. 11) It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12) If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. 14) Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16) But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17) and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18) men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. 19) Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." 20) Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22) Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23) But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24) The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25) with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

1 Timothy 4:6-16

6) In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7) But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9) It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. 10) For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of

believers. 11) Prescribe and teach these things. 12) Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. 13) Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. 14) Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. 15) Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. 16) Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.