



Why a Plurality of Elders Is God's Design for a Healthy Church

ACTS 20:17,28 · TITUS 1:5 · HEBREWS 13:17

A redwood standing alone falls in the first storm; roots intertwined across a grove, they are unshakeable.

God never designed His church to rest on one solo pastor. A plurality of qualified, Spirit-filled men, leading side-by-side, is His intentional design.

1 The Principle — One Office, Three Titles

Elder, overseer, and pastor name the **same one office** (Acts 20:17, 28) — not a corporate org-chart. Reserved for biblically qualified men, grounded in the creation order (1 Tim 2:12; 3:2).

ELDER <i>πρεσβύτερος</i> Character , by maturity among the flock	OVERSEER <i>ἐπίσκοπος</i> Function , by oversight of the flock	PASTOR <i>ποιμήν</i> Care , by shepherding of the flock
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2 The Pattern — Plurality in Every Church

Acts 14:23 — Paul appointed elders (plural) in every church, with prayer and fasting.	<i>elders / church</i>
Titus 1:5 — Appoint elders (plural) in every city (singular). Each church, multiple elders.	<i>plural / city</i>
Acts 20:28 — The Holy Spirit makes overseers. The Spirit calls; the congregation affirms.	<i>Spirit calls</i>

3 The Power — How Elders Govern

1 Tim 5:17 — Elders rule (<i>προϊστημι</i> , “to stand first”) — neither neglecting/lording over the flock.	<i>rule well</i>
Titus 1:9 — Hold fast the Word: exhort in sound doctrine and reprove those who contradict.	<i>exhort & reprove</i>
Heb 13:17 — Have a teachable spirit; elders keep watch over your souls and give an account.	<i>watch over souls</i>

4 The Protection — Objections & Blessings

Objections Answered

- Inherited tradition?
- Fear of hierarchy?
- Efficiency?
- Misuse of power?

Five Blessings of Plurality

- Wisdom & unity in diversity
- Protection for the leaders
- Long-term stability
- Encouragement & shared burden
- Balanced care for the flock

TAKE IT HOME

- **Congregation:** Am I relating to my elders with a teachable spirit — allowing myself to be persuaded, and yielding? (Heb 13:17)
- **Men:** Am I willing serve others here at FBS? Am I faithful in the small things here at FBS? (Luke 16:10)
- **All of us:** Pray for godliness to spread in our church, protect our pastor and raise up future pastors at FBS (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23)