

Biblical Eldership **ELDERSHIP INSTITUTED IN THE** **EARLY CHURCH**

- Some Traditional Churches - e.g., Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist ordain a person as "an Elder" who serves a local church or churches.
- **Elders** are ordained to a ministry of **the word, rituals, preaching, teaching & pastoral offices.**

Elders in the Old Testament:

- Recorded several times in the history of Israel.
- Were usually older men of a tribe.
- Were entrusted with all decision-making matters.
- Their counsel was highly regarded because of their maturity and experience.

In the New Testament:

- Jewish Elders served in the synagogues and temples.
- Repeatedly recorded in the gospels as "the chief priests and elders of the people" – **Matthew 21:23; 26:3, 47; 27:1** etc.

Why is Biblical Eldership so Important?

1. **God's Word clearly teaches about Eldership.**
 - a. To deal with problems as they arise in Church life.
 - b. To correct error or neglect to well-defined directives in Scripture.
2. **The New Testament Church embraced Biblical Eldership**

- a. The NT Church is the prototype for the family of God.
- b. The NT leadership structure must complement and encourage a family disposition of the church.

3. **Elders were appointed in all New Testament Churches.**

- a. Elders in the Jerusalem church:
 - o **Acts 11:30** – Elders were responsible for the general well-being of the church.
- b. Elders at the Jerusalem Council cited five times in **Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22 & 23.**
 - o (Context in **Acts 15:1**).
- c. When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem "they were welcomed by the church, and the apostles and the elders" **Acts 15:4.**
- d. Paul & Barnabas:
 - o The church as a whole,
 - o The apostles,
 - o The body of elders.

The Lord of the Church delivered Eldership to His Church?

1. **The Apostles appointed "Elders"** in every Church they planted. – **Acts 14:23.**
2. Paul urged Titus to complete their unfinished business in Crete **and appoint Elders** – **Titus 1:5.**
3. The ascended **Christ gave Elders to His Church** – **Ephesians 4:11-13.**

Pastor Charles Lazaro

Sunday – 15th May 10.00 AM

Wonthaggi Baptist Church

WBC IS THE PLACE TO BE