



HOW TO DO THE WORK OF AN ELDER

BEING PREPARED FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB
YOU MAY EVER HOLD!

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How to Do The Work of an Elder

- I. Biblical Theology of Spiritual Leadership
- II. Leadership as an Art
- III. The Role of the Elder - Task Related Functions
- IV. You Can't Teach What You Don't Know
- V. A Vision for the Kingdom
- VI. The Elder's/Council Meeting
- VII. Public Worship and the Sacraments
- VIII. Visiting the Membership
- IX. Caring and Comforting
- X. Promoting Obedience

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Biblical Theology of Spiritual Leadership

- Ex. 18- delegation
- Acts 14- discipleship

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Leadership as an Art

- **Humility**
 - Luke 9
 - Phil. 2
- **Servanthood**
 - Matt. 20
 - Phil. 2
- **Obedience/Teachability/Submission**
 - Matt. 5
 - 1 and 2 Timothy

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The Role of the Elder Task-Related Functions

- **Nurture**
 - enfolding
 - enhancing
 - encouraging

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The Role of the Elder Task-Related Functions

- **Discipleship**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... Matt. 28:19

- **Why?**

- Historical Reasons
- Theological Reasons
- Practical Reasons

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The Role of the Elder Task-Related Functions

- **Discipleship**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... Matt. 28:19

- **How?**

- House Visits
- Small Groups
- Catechism

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The Role of the Elder Task-Related Functions

- **Discipleship**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... Matt. 28:19

- **What?**

- Where do I stand with God?
- The Apostles Creed (Didache)
- Holy living
- Separated spirituality-(prayer, fasting, giving, devotion)
- Worship

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The Role of the Elder Task-Related Functions

- **Finding and Enfolding**

- Promoting the work of evangelism
- Promoting the work of discipleship
- Promoting the work of small groups & church life

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The Role of the Elder Task-Related Functions

- **Administrative responsibilities**
 - Keeping proper order – heritage and legacy
 - Classis - committee's and functions
 - Clerk – Baptism and membership

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You Can't Teach What You Aren't or Haven't Learned

- Christlikeness
- Maturity
- Simplicity
- Balance
- Dependence
- Non- Conformity(neither escapism nor conformity)

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A Vision for the Kingdom

- What makes your congregation peculiar?
- What do you have and do that is different from other churches in your area?
- What is different about your area from other areas of the country/ world community?

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The Elder's/Council meeting

- Preparation
- Read the minutes of committees
- Establish an agenda
- Be creative and picture what you need
- Be prepared to move on action items
- Be positive and move forward
- Keep your eye on the ball
- Understanding is not agreement
- Parliamentary Procedure

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The Elder's/Council meeting

- Ministry or issues: a choice must be made at every meeting
 - social issues, growth issues, worship issues etc.
- Confidentiality
- Communication
 - Internal
 - With the congregation
 - With the Classis
 - With the Synod

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Public Worship and Sacraments

- Preaching
 - Biblical
 - Confessional
 - Creedal
 - Reformed Doctrine
 - Importance and frequency (worship services)

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Public Worship and Sacraments

- The Sacraments
 - Baptism
 - The Lord's Supper

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Public Worship and Sacraments

- Worship as the Elder's "Prime Directive"
 - Deciding the **why** of worship
 - Deciding the **what** of worship
 - Deciding the **how** of worship
 - Deciding the **when** of worship

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Visiting the membership

- Family Visiting
- Hospital/ shut-in calling
- Crisis visiting

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Caring and Comforting

- Illness
- Cancer, emergency, maternity, other
- Loss, death, divorce, separation
- Grief aftercare

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Promoting Obedience

- Discipline and discipleship
- Obedience and giftedness- participation in the body
- Conflict management (see next section)

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Conflict Management and Confrontation

- Conflict Management
 - Encourage a positive church atmosphere
 - Full employment (Use of Spiritual Gifts)
 - Encourage the productive
- Start With the Council
 - Trust
 - Character (Christlikeness)
 - Ministry in and of the meeting

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Conflict Management and Confrontation

- Confrontation And Conflict
 - Attitude- permission, potency and protection
 - Atmosphere- timing and location
 - Approach
 - Give it time
 - Keep your perspective
 - Learn firm forgiveness

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Conflict Management and Confrontation

- Types Of Conflict- Acts 15:36ff; Gal. 2:11-14
 - Doctrinal
 - Personal

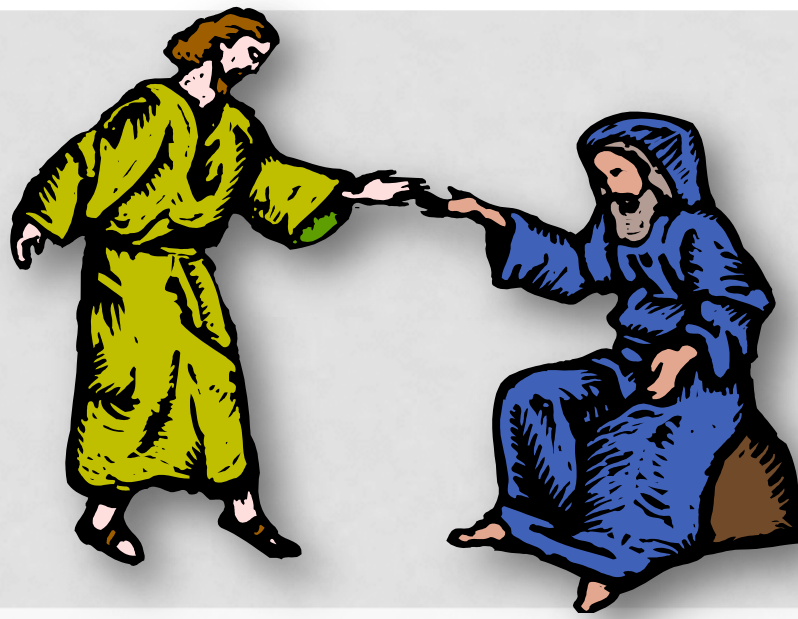
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Conflict Management and Confrontation

- Personal Attitude In Conflict
 - Humility
 - Love
 - Servant hood
 - MYOB (Be sure this is an Elder's responsibility and task.)
 - Investigate
 - Be bold and confident
 - What did you learn from this time and the last time

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In closing...



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

