

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)

January 17, 2010

So you want to be an elder?

by David King

"This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work" (1 Tim. 3:1).

Like any other organization, success or failure in a congregation of God's people almost always depends on the quality of its leadership. That leadership is the responsibility of the elders, also known as bishops or overseers (Titus 1:5,7; Ac. 20:17, 28) or pastors (1 Pet. 5:2; Eph. 4:11). Elders can make or break a local church.

In our opening text, Paul describes the elder's role as both a "position" and a "good work." In other words, **eldering** is not just a title that a man wears; it is a **work** that he performs. That work consists of a variety of activities related to the well-being of the flock under his care, such as teaching (1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Heb. 13:7), administering benevolence (Ac. 11:29-30), ministering to the sick and afflicted (Jas. 5:14-15), and providing guidance in matters of judgment (Ac. 21:18-25). Not everyone is cut out for this kind of work.

Notice further that Paul says a man must **desire** to perform this work. If a man must be pushed into this role against his will, he probably won't be very effective in it. That's not to say that he should campaign for the office like a politician. But he must be willing to give his whole heart to the endeavor. Souls are at stake, and he must take this role seriously.

So what kind of men make good elders? And where do these men come from? The New Testament outlines the qualifications for elders in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Look carefully

at these two passages, and you'll notice that all these qualifications can be grouped into two broad categories: knowledge and character. An elder must be firmly grounded in the faith he represents, and his character must reflect the highest standards of integrity and decorum.

There is no **eldering school** that churns out certified, licensed elders. There is no correspondence course that a man can take to prepare him for this role. Rather, a man becomes an elder because of who he is. He is a man who has spent his whole life studying, growing, serving, and improving himself. Being appointed as an elder is simply the capstone on a lifetime of hard work.

A man does not just wake up one morning and decide that it would be pretty cool to be an elder. It is a process that begins in his younger days, starting with his decision to become a Christian. Everything he does, from choosing a spouse and raising his kids, to his career, his civic involvement, his finances, his recreational pursuits, as well as his religious commitment, prepares him to serve as a leader of God's people. Becoming an elder is simply one more step in a long journey of personal dedication to God.

Do you want to become an elder some day? First, take inventory of your personal commitment to the Lord. How much do you really know about the Bible? What are your strengths and weaknesses? What changes do you need to make to move forward in your life as a Christian? Get serious about your faith, and someday you'll be recognized as a leader among God's people. You will have earned it.