

Plural Leadership



REDEEMER PAMPA

WHY?

The clear pattern of the churches in the New Testament was to be led by a body of godly men. It seems that in the earliest days of the church, these men did not have a definitive title, but by the time Paul was writing his Pastoral Epistles, it appears that there were only two types of official leadership: elders (or overseers) and deacons. The scriptural example is the primary reason we have organized ourselves in this way, but there are some very practical implications that we also want to discuss.

Accountability: We believe that all are prone to sin and because of this, we all need accountability. Having a body of elders keeps any one man from being above questioning so that all my live above reproach.

Burden Sharing: No one person is gifted or skilled enough to shepherd, teach, lead, care for, counsel, and walk alongside an entire congregation of people. The elders at Redeemer Pampa will share these responsibilities according to their giftings.

Clarity of Roles: As we look at the New Testament, Paul gives direction and instruction to the different groups of leadership (elders and deacons) in the church. By organizing ourselves according to biblical pattern, we allow these texts to speak more clearly.

So what IS an elder?

Elder doesn't mean "older," like in, "Respect your elders." It is a term used in the New Testament to describe the men who were responsible for the teaching, shepherding and equipping of the people in the churches. In both 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, Paul lays out specific qualifications for those who would perform these roles. The elders were to set an example that would point people to Jesus and to the gospel. At Redeemer Pampa, we are committed to prayerfully and carefully appointing men to lead us who meet these qualifications.

On Deacons:

The deacons at Redeemer Pampa will lead the people in the body as they live on mission in our community and to the nations. They will serve and care for the body and lead others to do the same. Deacons will be appointed according to the guidelines in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6.

Questions?

Should you have additional questions regarding elders and deacons, please see Session 4 of the Membership Class Manual or speak with any of the elders.

For further reading/study:

Scripture:

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

1 Peter 5:1-4

Acts 6:1-7

Hebrews 13:17

Ephesians 4:11-13

James 5:14

Books/Articles:

[Why Elders? A Biblical and Practical Guide for Church Members](#)

by Ben Merkle

[Biblical Eldership](#) by Alexander Strauch