

I Peter 5:1-4 -- "Therefore, I exhort the elders (πρεσβυτέρους) among you, as fellow elder (συμπρεσβύτερος) and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd (ποιμάνετε) the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (ἐπισκοποῦντες) not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief shepherd (ἀρχιποιόμενος) appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

(c) The qualifications of this office

Qualifications as to character and function (both what he is to be and what he is able to do)

I Timothy 3:2-7 -- "An overseer (ἐπίσκοπον), then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

Titus 1:5-9 -- "For this reason I left you in Crete that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders (πρεσβυτέρους) in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who are faithful, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

Qualifications as to function (what he is to be able to do)

He should be able to preside, rule, lead, administrate, oversee in the church (Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24; I Timothy 5:17; 3:5; 1 Thess. 5:12).

He should be able to pastor the church of God (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2; John 21:15-17).

He should be able to watch over the souls of the congregation (Hebrews 13:17).

He should be able to oversee the welfare of the people of God (Acts 20:28)