

A Study Guide to
Alexander Strauch’s
*Biblical Eldership*

PART 1—Biblical Eldership

Chapter 1: Pastoral Leadership

Read Chapter 1: Pastoral Leadership

**Q:** What are some common misconceptions in the modern church about the office of elder?

Answer here

**Q**: How does the NT define or describe the office of elder? In your answer, take this diagram into account:


Answer here

Strauch, in this chapter, divides elder responsibilities into four broad categories: protecting, feeding, leading, and caring for the flock. Let’s consider each one.

**Q:** What is involved with *protecting* the flock (**Acts 20:28-31**)? In other words, what does the flock need to be protected from? How do elders accomplish the work of protecting? What happens to churches when the elders do not carry out this responsibility?

Answer here

**Q:** What is involved with *feeding* the flock (**Jeremiah 3:15**)? In other words, what does the church need to eat? How does a faithful shepherd go about feeding the sheep? What happens to churches when the elders do not carry out this responsibility?

Answer here

**Q:** What is involved with *leading* the flock (**1 Timothy 5:17**)? In other words, what does ruling, governing, and overseeing the flock look like in real life? What happens to churches when the elders do not carry out this responsibility?

Answer here

**Q:** What is involved with *caring* forthe flock (**1 Timothy 3:4-5**)? What part does love play in pastoral ministry? Why is it important for elders to spend personal time with people? What happens to churches when the elders do not carry out this responsibility?

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer here

Chapter 2: Shared Leadership

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**Q:** How does Strauch defend the view of shared pastoral leadership in the church? Explain his train of thought. Do you find this position convincing? Please explain.

Answer Here

**Q:** How would you *define* shared leadership in the church?

Answer Here

**Q:** What are some of the *benefits* of shared leadership for the leaders and for the church as a whole?

Answer Here

**Q:** What are some of the *hazards* of shared leadership? How should a healthy leadership team handle these issues?

Answer Here

**Q:** What do you make of Strauch's teaching on the principle of a "first among equals"?

Answer Here

**Q:** By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer Here

Chapter 3: Male Leadership

Read Chapter 3: Male Leadership

**Q:** What does it mean that men and women are equal in personhood, dignity, and value but distinct in gender roles?

Answer Here

**Q:** Strauch presents the model of male leadership by appealing to Jesus and the apostles as examples. He also mentions two objections that are often are raised:

1. Jesus was merely accommodating His culture.
2. Jesus’ work of redemption abolished all male-female role distinctions.

What is your response to these objections?

Answer Here

**Q:** How is male headship in the family relevant to male leadership in the church?

Answer Here

**Q:** Strauch develops his position from **1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, and 1 Corinthains 14:33-38**. How do you understand these passages, especially as they relate to male leadership?

Answer Here

**Q:** Strauch points out that egalitarians appeal to **Galatians 3:28** and teach that the gospel has done away with female submission to male leadership. What is your response to this objection?

Answer Here

**Q:** How does the Bible show that women play a critical part in the plan of redemption and in the life of the local church?

Answer Here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer Here

Chapter 4: Qualified Leadership

Read Chapter 4: Qualified Leadership

**Q:** Strauch wrote, “The most common mistake made by churches that are eager to implement eldership is to appoint biblically unqualified men” (pg. 68). Why does this happen? What happens to a church that compromises on the biblical qualifications?

Answer Here

The Bible clearly teaches that elders must meet certain qualifications (**1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5**). Strauch breaks these biblical qualifications down into three broad categories: character, abilities, and motivation. Let’s discuss them *generally* now as we will examine each specific qualification in greater detail later on.

**Q:** What does God require of elders concerning their moral and spiritual *character*? Why does character matter for pastoral ministry?

Answer Here

**Q:** What *abilities* must the elders possess in order to be biblically qualified? Why are these abilities required for pastoral ministry?

Answer Here

**Q:** Strauch argues that leaders are to be living examples to the church. What are some of the implications of this truth for pastoral ministry?

Answer Here

**Q:** What must *motivate* the elders to serve the church? Why do the motives of the heart matter when it comes to pastoral ministry?

Answer Here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer Here

Chapter 5: Servant Leadership

Read Chapter 5: Servant Leadership

**Q:** Strauch made this strong statement: “Eldership will never work if the elders don’t understand or fall short of a total commitment to Christ’s principles of self-sacrificing love and humble servanthood” (pg. 86). Read over that a few times carefully. Restate it in your own words. What is Strauch getting at in that sentence?

Answer here

**Q:** Strauch gives a brief survey of Jesus teaching on servant leadership. What important truths do each of these passages (**Matthew 11:29; Mark 9:33-35; 10:35-45; Matthew 23:1-2; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:3-17**) teach about leadership in God’s kingdom?

Answer here

**Q:** Much of what is said in this chapter boils down to the issues of pride and humility. What can we do to avoid pride in our lives? What can we do to nurture humility in our lives?

Answer here

**Q:** Strauch wrote, “Conflict among elders is a serious, all too common problem” (pg. 96). How should the principles in this chapter impact the way that the leaders work through times of conflict with one another? Try to be specific.

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer here