

8. Elders

The Bible tells us what type of person may be an elder (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9). A person is not qualified to be an elder if he does not meet these qualifications. An elder must be a man who is married and has children who are faithful Christians. He should be respected in the community, and able to teach God's Word. An elder must not be selfish, or one who picks fights. He must not be a new Christian.

It is the job of the elders to make sure the congregation is doing what the Bible says (Acts 20:28). They must be able to correct those who are doing wrong (Acts 20:29-31; 1 Thes. 5:12,13). It is the elders' duty to make sure the contribution is spent wisely (Titus 1:7). The elders must make sure the church is working hard to "preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15,16).



Christians are to "obey" the elders, according to Hebrews 13:17. We have memorized part of this verse. Quote it, and then read the entire verse. Children who have learned how to obey their parents will be more likely to obey the elders and do what the Bible teaches.

To Help Us Understand

On the way home from worship service, Dad said he wanted to have a family discussion about the eldership.



Timothy asked, "Why are we going to have elders now? We have never had any elders in our congregation before."

Dad replied, "We did not have elders because our congregation did not have two or more men who were qualified. Since Wesley Bender moved here and started worshiping with our congregation, there are two men who may be qualified."

Janice wanted to know, "Who is the other man? What kind of man can be an elder?"

"I am the other man who may become an elder. An elder must be a man who is married and has faithful Christian children. He must be patient and kind. An elder must be able to teach God's Word."

"Dad, we studied about elders in our teenage class," Franklin stated. "I think you would be a great elder! We will all try to live faithful Christian lives, and help you any way we can." Janice and Timothy agreed.

"That's good," Dad said. "It is important to do what the Bible says. I want to be an elder and help our congregation continue to work hard to be pleasing to God. I hope we can begin doing more to teach the lost."

"I'll help, too," Mom added. "An elder must be friendly. We can invite people to our home often."

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Use the code to fill in the answers to the questions:

1. What kind of children must an elder have? (Titus 1:6)

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2. An elder must know enough about God's Word to be able to ▼ ✚ ☆ ✂ ★ (1 Tim. 3:2).

3. An elder must be friendly, and ready to visit with people. 1 Tim. 3:2 says he must be

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4. He may not be a new Christian, because 1 Tim. 3:6 says, ☆ □ ▼ ☆ ☆ □ ★ ✿ ✂ ✚

5. Money can not be more important to an elder than serving God. This is described in 1 Tim. 3:3 as

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Elders must be in control at home. They must have children who obey. The apostle Paul described it in his letter to Timothy as "One that ruleth well his own house..." Paul also explained the reason. Use the code to write out what Paul said:

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NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER:

RWS #2, According to God's Pattern, contains the same topics as the lesson book, *According to God's Pattern*, for fifth and sixth grades. The latter was written first, as Mrs. Hanna could not find adequate lesson material to teach the children in her Bible class why we worship as we do, and how the church is to be patterned after the teachings found in God's Word.

RWS #2 may be used for children in grades 1-4 or with one age group only. Teachers in very small congregations may purchase the book for grades five and six to use in conjunction with this book to teach an even wider age range in the same classroom.

Before our children leave home they need to have a clear understanding of what it means to worship in spirit and in truth! If they don't know why churches of Christ don't use musical instruments (and why we do and don't do many other things during worship), it will be difficult for them to remain faithful to God's Word when they are grown.

EVERY CONGREGATION can benefit from this lesson topic! If your congregation uses one of the major publishing companies, teach from **RWS #2** for a special Sunday evening class/devotional. Use it for Vacation Bible School or Bible Camp. A talented teacher may be able to use the lessons to supplement other curriculum.

There is also one coloring page to go with this lesson, which is not included in the sample lesson because it must be printed lengthwise on the page, so it could not be added to this document.

Throughout **RWS #2** (and all RWS books and CDs), Bible teachers are provided with activities suited for various ages in the classroom. For example, the word search which is used in Lesson 5, "Pray Without Ceasing," is offered in two versions. The first one has words underlined in the scriptures. The second version allows older children to look up the passages and fill in the missing words, then find them in the word search. The easy version contains no backward words, whereas older children will be challenged to find some backward words in their word search. Yet all children may study the same topic in one classroom.

RWS #2 is also available on CD.