

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you. (Titus 1:5)
- Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.. (Acts 20:28)
- So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples of the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3)

READ VERSES 5 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. Paul's primary mission for Titus was for him to organize each church of the cities of Crete through the appointing of elders. What is the biblical idea of church elders and deacons? How is that idea similar or different to your previous idea of church leadership?
2. Since throughout the New Testament there was only one church per city, Paul's command to appoint elders in every town seems to point to multiple (or a plurality) of elders in each city. Does the rest of the Bible support this concept of plural elders for each church? Why or why not?
3. What is the main reason that most Baptists no longer practice plurality of elders? Is this a sufficient reason for changing the Bible's design for church leadership?
4. What are a few practical benefits of elder plurality?

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Take time to thoughtfully consider the biblical concept of elders within the church and how it differs from most churches' established leadership.
- Pray that in all things, especially matters of the church, we (both corporately and individually) would submit ourselves the Scriptures and its teachings.