

THE PASTOR AS OVERSEER

ἐπίσκοπος

1 Timothy 3:1 uses the Greek word “episkopos” as a designation for the head of a congregation. Translated the word essentially means “overseer; presiding officer” and involves the following duties:

- 1. Preaching**
- 2. Teaching**
- 3. Guarding from Error**
- 4. Directing the Affairs of the Congregation**
- 5. Being a Shepherd of the Flock**

“Episkopos” has been translated: “bishop, overseer, presiding officer, superintendent, minister, pastor”. (KJV, NIV, NEB, NASB, ABUV, Rhm, ASV, TCNT, Gdpd, Mon, Wms, Ber, NEB) All designations involve leadership and oversight.

In fulfilling the role of overseer, an “episkopos” is essentially the chief manager/steward of a congregation. He is responsible to Christ, the Chief Steward of the Church, to manage His congregation and lead His people in love according to His word.

An “episkopos” (overseer) “poimain” (shepherd/pastor) is expected to delegate responsibility. He is “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up.” (Eph. 4:12) He is to engage his congregational members in the Lord’s work. In a loving, non-dictatorial way, he is to see to it that things are executed in a timely, proper, orderly and efficient manner. This involves prayer, loving advice, inspiration, appreciation and when necessary, “follow through”, by checking to see if those entrusted with duties have accomplished them. Practicing good management skills with Christian wisdom is essential.

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