

# 1 Peter

5:1-7

Biblically, the word overseer, bishop, elder, and pastor are used interchangeably.

## 1 Peter 4:10

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As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Elders were normative in the early churches.

## Acts 11:29-30

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So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 14:21-23

Titus 1:5

Each local body of believers  
was to have its own elders.

Titus 1:6-9

How many elders  
should a church have?

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should a church have?  
More than one, and enough to  
appropriately care for the flock.

Why is a multitude of elders important?

### Benefits of a plurality of elders:

- It is biblical.
- Better care of the flock.
- More eyes on the flock for care.
- More teaching opportunities.
- More leaders to defend sound doctrine.
- More leaders to serve as examples.

### Benefits of a plurality of elders:

- More likely that weak spots in one elder may be strengthened by another.
- More accountability.
- Less opportunity for exhaustion, neglect, greed, power, and prestige.

Acts 20:17-31

God's flock was to be tended by God's shepherds. The same God that saved them was also providing leadership for them.

What is the best way to protect a church from wolves?

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Make them strong; teach them the word of God. Strong sheep surrounded by other strong sheep makes the task of the wolf very difficult.

Ezekiel 34:1-6

John 21:15-17

Even though God has appointed certain men to shepherd His flock, ultimately and supremely, God is the Chief Shepherd.

Every person in the church, including the elders and the new converts, were to be clothed with humility towards one another.

Do you trust that God is sovereign?

If you truly comprehended God's sovereignty, you would have zero anxiety about life.

The cure for anxiety and worry is to increase your view of God.

There is a fine line between healthy concern and worry.

### Matthew 6:34

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"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Those who rest in God's love, God's sovereignty, and God's care are more than able to get through the trials of this life.

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