

# Leaders in the New Testament Church

"Shepherd; Pastor"
<b>Poimen (4166)</b>
<u>Used of ordinary shepherds:</u> Matt.9:36/25:32/Mark 6:34/Luke 2:8, 15, 18, 20
<u>Used of Christ</u> Matt.26:31/John 10:11, 12, 14, 16/ Heb.13:20/ ...called "Shepherd ( <i>poimen</i> ) and overseer ( <i>episkopos</i> )" 1 Pet.2:25
<u>Used of church leaders</u> (once in New Testament):  <i>Ephesians 4:11</i> "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, <b>pastors</b> and teachers."  <i>Cf. Jeremiah 3:15</i> "And I will give you <b>pastors</b> according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding"

"Elder(-s)"
<b>Presbuteros (-oi) (4245)</b>
<u>Used of Israel's leaders</u> (probably the firstborn of each clan): Exodus 3:16, 18/4:29/19:7/ Numbers 11:17/ 1 Samuel 8:4/ 1 Kings 8:1, etc.
<u>Used of older men in general:</u> Luke 15:25/John 8:9/Acts 2:17 1 Tim.5:1, 2/ 1 Pet.5:5
<u>Used of church leaders:</u>  <i>In Jerusalem:</i> Acts 11:30/ 12:25/21:18  <i>In other churches, e.g.:</i>  <i>Acts 14:23</i> "And when they had ordained them <b>elders</b> in every church..."  <i>Acts 20:17</i> ...he sent to Ephesus and called the <b>elders</b> of the church."  <i>Titus 1:5</i> "...ordain <b>elders</b> in every city..."  <i>James 5:14</i> "Is any sick among you? let him call for the <b>elders</b> of the church"

"Overseer; Bishop"
<b>Episkopos (1985)</b>
<u>Used of Christ:</u> 1 Pet. 2:25
<u>Used of church leaders:</u> (4 times in New Testament)  <i>Acts 20:28</i> [to the <i>elders</i> (v.17) of the Ephesian church:] "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you <b>overseers</b> , to feed the church of God..."  <i>Philippians 1:1</i> "...to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the <b>bishops</b> and deacons"  <i>1 Tim.3:2</i> "A <b>bishop</b> then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..."  <i>Titus 1:7</i> "For a <b>bishop</b> must be blameless, as the steward of God..."

## Used interchangeably:

"...the Shepherd [*poimen*] and Bishop [*episkopos*] of your souls" (1 Pet.2:25)

"[addressed to elders *prebuteroi* (v.17)]: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers** [*episkopos*], to **feed** [the verb form of *poimen*, "shepherd"] the church of God..." (Acts 20:28)

"The **elders** [*prebuteroi*] which are among you, I exhort...**feed** [the verb form of *poimen*, shepherd] the flock of God which is among you, **taking the oversight** [the verb form of *episkopos*]..."  
(1 Peter 5:1-2)

"ordain **elders** [*prebuteroi*] in every city...for a **bishop** [*episkopos*] must be blameless" (Titus 1:5,