

Elder Leadership Principles and Practical Applications  
Source: Gene Getz, Elders and Leaders

Discussion Questions:

1. As you understand the Biblical story, are these principles articulated accurately?
2. Assuming these principles are articulated accurately, how does our own approach to leadership reflect these principles?

Principles for Discussion

1. **First Official Appointments** When local churches are established, the first official appointments should be spiritual leaders who are able to give overall direction to the church, however, they should not be appointed until they are qualified!
2. **A Unified Team** The goal of every church should be to eventually appoint qualified leaders who serve together as a qualified team.
3. **Qualifications** All spiritual leaders should be appointed based on the maturity profile outlined by Paul in the Pastoral Epistles.
4. **Basic Ethics and Morality** When looking for qualified leaders to serve the church, consider first those men and their families who've grown up in an environment where their values have been shaped by Judeo-Christian ethics and morality
5. **An Initial Leader** If there are no candidates in the church who are qualified to serve as official spiritual leaders, another qualified leader needs to serve in either a temporary or permanent role until others in the church are sufficiently equipped to serve in this role.
6. **A Primary Leader** Every group of spiritual leaders needs a primary leader who both leads and serves, and who is accountable to his fellow spiritual leaders.
7. **Titles** When determining "titles" for spiritual leaders in the local church, 'how they function' is far more important than 'what the local body calls them'.
8. **Multiple Fathers** Spiritual leaders should manage and shepherd the church just as fathers care for their families and shepherds tend their sheep.
9. **Important Priorities** Six important priorities to accomplish point 8 are: teaching the Word, modeling Christ-like behavior, maintaining doctrinal purity, disciplining unruly disciples, overseeing the material needs of the church and praying for the sick.
10. **Mutual Accountability** Spiritual leaders should hold each other accountable for their spiritual lives as well as the way they carry out their ministry.
11. **Expanded Accountability** To follow the NT model, every body of local church leaders should have some kind of accountability system that extends beyond themselves — particularly involving the primary leaders.
12. **Qualified Assistants** In order to maintain their priorities, leaders should appoint qualified assistants who can help them meet the needs of all believers in the church.

13. **Financial Support**                      Spiritual leaders are to make sure that those who devote significant time to the ministry, particularly in teaching the Word of God, should be cared for financially.
14. **Adequate Forms**                      Spiritual leaders are responsible to make sure that adequate forms are developed to carry out the functions inherent in the above biblical principles.