

Sermon Title: Pastor is a Verb

Speaker: Neil Silverberg

Date: 2/18/18



Acts 20:28: “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.”

“Those who are most bound by tradition are those who don’t think they have any” (John Sampson)

Who are elders, how are they recognized, what do they do?

(Acts 20:28)

1) **Who are elders?** (“called the elders”, Acts 20:17)

- In the Old Testament elders were _____ men who had gained _____
- In the New Testament, they are not necessarily _____ older but _____ wise and mature
- Everywhere we look we see there is a _____, not just one

Trinity Community Church is pastored by a team of elders all of which share the load of feeding, leading, and protecting the flock

2) **How were they recognized?** (“the Holy Spirit has made you overseers: Acts 20:28)

- It is the Holy Spirit’s job to give the church elders, but the elders and OT members’ job to carefully _____ the person to affirm it

Trinity uses the Four C’s to analyze candidates for eldership:

- _____ (godliness, purity, etc.)
- _____ (share the same biblical convictions)
- _____ (apt to teach, competent in giftedness)
- _____ (works well with others, team player)

3) **What do they do?** (“overseers, to care for the church of God Acts 20:28”)

- Paul uses two Greek words to describe how elders function, one borrowed from the _____ world and one from the _____ world
- _____ was borrowed from the Hebrew world; _____ from Greek

Questions for discussion for House Churches, Triads and Devotions

- Who were the elders in the Old Testament? Who were they in the New?
- How does an existing eldership recognize elders in the future?
- What word for elders came out of the Hebrew world? the Greek World?

Fill-in answers: older, wisdom, physically, spiritually, examine, character, conviction, competency, chemistry, Hebrew, Greek, shepherd, overseer

Fill-in answers: older, wisdom, physically, spiritually, examine, character, conviction, competency, chemistry, Hebrew, Greek, shepherd, overseer