

In  
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of ...

# Truth & Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."* Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the  
**Wellsburg  
church of Christ**  
Which meets at:  
**112 Sunset Ave.  
Wellsburg, WV 26070  
304-737-1422**

*We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.*

**TIMES OF SERVICES**  
**SUNDAY**  
Bible Classes\* 10:00 AM  
AM Worship 10:45 AM  
PM Worship 6:30 PM  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Classes\* 7:00 PM  
(\* Bible Classes for All Ages)

**Today's Sermons:**  
*AM—What Shall I  
Render?*  
*PM—Submitting  
To God*

*Audio CD's are available  
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:  
[www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org)*

*If you have any questions regard-  
ing what we teach and practice,  
please feel free to ask.*

## Where Do Elders Come From?

By: Paul Earnhart  
via—Charlottesville Beacon

The scarcity of functioning elders (bishops, pastors) in local churches has led some Christians to conclude that they are a rare breed with rare qualities. Otherwise, they reason, why would they be so difficult to come by? Contrary to this rather discouraging view, elders do not have to be imported from outer space. They are generated from ordinary human beings from "every tribe and tongue and people and nation," and perhaps it will help identify the reason for their scarcity if we trace, step by step, where elders originate.

First of all, and elementally, elders come from strong Christians, men and women who by the power of God have been radically reborn (John 3:3-6). Now, here are some remarkable people. They have given up everything for the Lord's sake, claiming not even their breath as their own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 2:1-2). Theirs is a life of utter trust in the Son of God (Galatians 2:20). Why should we be surprised that something special should arise in the characters of folk like this? They will love God supremely and care about others in a self-sacrificial way.

Secondly, elders (Greek **presbuteroi**, older men), by definition, originate from Christians who are men. There is nothing

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special or remarkable or difficult here. From the outset, men as well as women have been touched by the appeal of the gospel (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 8:12; 17:12,34) and we can logically anticipate that wherever the gospel is preached, this will continue to be so.

Thirdly, elders are to be taken from among Christian men who are mature in years (older) and in the faith (*"not a novice,"* 1 Timothy 3:6). The bulk of the bishop's required qualities are no more than would be expected in any mature disciple: *"... sober minded, orderly, given to hospitality ... no brawler, no striker; but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money ... good testimony from them that are without ..."* (1 Timothy 3:7) *"... not selfwilled, not soon angry ... a lover of good ... just, holy, self-controlled; holding to the faithful word ..."* (Titus 1:6-9). Every Christian, without exception, is expected to grow and mature into *"a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ ..."* (Ephesians 4:13). There is nothing unusual about the Lord's servants becoming increasingly like Him. It is their failure to grow up that is considered aberrant (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:12-14).

Fourthly, elders are drawn from mature Christian men who are married. The Holy Spirit has indicated that the elder is to be *"the husband of one wife"* (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Here, again, there is no special obstacle. As a matter of course, most men marry.

Fifthly, elders are to be taken from mature Christian men who are married and have children. His children are to be believers and those still in his household are to be respectfully obedient (Titus 1:6; 1 Timothy 3:4). There is nothing remarkable about a married man having children. Most married men are fathers, and from such a characteristic population new disciples were drawn in the past and will be drawn today. Nor should it be thought unusual for a Christian father's children to be faithful disciples and obedient to him. Godly parents will, more often than not,

lead their children to serve the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). In New Testament times, it was not uncommon for whole households to be converted (Acts 10:24; 11:14; 16:31,33).

From among mature Christian family men with many different abilities there are bound to be some who are effective teachers (1 Timothy 3:2), able to nurture and train their brethren in the righteous ways of the Savior and protect them from the deceptions of false teachers (Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-5).

Now, from all these qualifications of elders there is nothing so significant as the fact that they are devoted Christians. That they are men, married men, family men is not anything

special. That they possess native skills as teachers gives them no distinction, either. Many men who have no faith in Christ at all could say the same. In the case of elders, it is the unqualified devotion that these men have to Christ that gives meaning to their family relationships and to their God given skills.

I cannot tell you how often I have heard complaints about the absence of elders in local churches and the difficulty of

finding qualified men to serve. It is not helpful merely to describe the problem and complain about it. We need to find the exact source of this critical shortage and formulate some godly solutions.

One thing we must face is that the Holy Spirit makes elders out of devoted Christians and churches that are filled with half-hearted and indifferent disciples don't have any material to work with. The answer to the shortage of every kind of worker in the kingdom of God is to get each child of God among us to be totally committed. If we can do that, the problem will take care of itself in time. If not, we will keep on complaining about the shortage of elders today and assure an even greater shortage tomorrow. Until we are willing to deal with our own shortfall in devotion, it is a little unrealistic to complain about the other fellow's.

“...from all these qualifications of elders there is nothing so significant as the fact that they are devoted Christians.”

# *Where Frustration Comes From*

*By: Gary Henry*

*via—Wordpoints—11-29-2008*

*“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war . . .” James 4:1,2*

The more self-centered our desires are, the more frustrated our response will be when those desires are blocked or denied. James pinpoints this problem when he says that even among fellow Christians “wars and fights” result from the inability of people to get what they lust for. When what we want is the mere fulfillment of selfish demands and those demands are not met, we often react with a range of soul-shriveling emotions, including anger and anxiety.

First of all, consider anger. If our focus is purely on the accomplishment of God's purposes, there will be little anger in our response to obstacles and delays, simply because we know that nothing can ultimately block God's purposes from being achieved. If, however, what we really want is the satisfaction of our own selfish will, our reaction will be very different when someone stands between us and what we want. The response that has aptly been called “demandingness” is a sure symptom that our desires are centered on something other than God.

But think also of fear and anxiety from this perspective. Is it not a fact that our tendency to worry stems from uncertainty that we're going to get what we want or that our goals are going to be reached? And if our goals are self-centered to start with, isn't the likelihood of anxiety much higher than if our goals were God-centered and depended on His power for their accomplishment?

These are important considerations for every person whose purpose is to seek God. If we find ourselves frequently experiencing either anger or anxiety, it is probably time to ask ourselves whether it is really our Father whom we are seeking. We must have the honesty to admit how often emotions like these are the result of frustrated self-seeking. And we must replace our demandingness with a sincere delight in the certainty of His will.

*“When my sense of self depends on what others say of me, anger is a quite natural reaction to a critical world. And when my sense of self depends on what I can acquire, greed flares up when my desires are frustrated. Thus greed and anger are the brother and sister of a false self, fabricated by the social compulsions of an unredeemed world.” — Henri J. M. Nouwen*



***“Jesus said\* to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'”***

John 14:6

- 1) He is the narrow way that leads to life.
- 2) He is the light of the world, revealing the truth about His Father and His Kingdom.
3. He lives, and within Him is everlasting life.
- 4) He is the great I AM.

**Make Jesus your FIRST love,  
the love of your life.**

via—Randy Simms

Share A Scripture—2/12/2008

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Dave Harless
<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Scripture</b>	Ezekiel 31
<b>Reader</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Prayer</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Tim Henderson
Fruit of the Vine	Harold Marshall
Serve	Matt Ferrell
Serve	Blake Headen
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Scripture</b>	Ezekiel 32:1-16
<b>Reader</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tim Henderson

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Song Leader</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Invitation</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.

## *News N Notes*

**Please continue to remember these in your prayers:**

#### **Recovering:**

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| - Ann Rudolph | - Mary Jane Myers |
| - Joyce Coen  | - Marie Roberts   |

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Phyllis Coen recovering from a broken ankle
- Albert Miller, Earl Miller and Marie Robert's brother, as he recovers from heart surgery.
- Alfred Myers has been diagnosed with a leaky valve in his heart, they are waiting until Spring to see if it improves
- Mary Jane Myer's daughter-in-law has cancer in her neck .
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry
- Frank Miller, Dorothy Lancaster's brother
- Rick Miller, Dorothy Lancaster's nephew
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, as he continues to deal with cancer treatments.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother, is at home
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Bud and Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Cary and Grace Lancaster

### **Don't forget our Shut-ins**

#### **Nursing Home:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

#### **At Home:**

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call 304-914-2262