Appoint Elders In Every City

I. Introduction
B. Acts 13:1–3—Sending out of apostles likewise the outcome of prayer and fasting. Apostles (inter-church) and elders (within a local church) together are the governing agents of God’s people, with a delicate balance of authority between them, possible only through God’s grace (compare: Husband and wife).
C. Acts 20:17, 28—Three descriptive words:
   1. Qualification: Elder—implies maturity
   2. Job: Overseer—i.e., Foreman, Supervisor
   3. Ministry: Shepherds
D. Tit. 1:5—Until elders are appointed, something has been “left unfinished”

II. Qualifications Of Elders
A. Tit. 1:6–9—Four main areas: 1 Tim. 3:1–7
   2. Family in order: Hospitable—manage his own home
   3. Spiritual equipment: thorough grasp of basic gospel truths—able to transmit them
   4. Respect of local community
B. Also, not a new convert

III. Functions Of Elders
A. Overseers—manage, administrate (Acts 20:28)
B. Shepherds—a caring heart (compare Ps. 23, especially v. 4)
C. Rule—govern (1 Tim. 5:17)
D. Teach—basic, practical, down-to-earth
E. Speak God’s Word—the “now” word to a given congregation (Heb. 13:7)
F. Set an example of faith—challenge God’s people
G. Watch over souls—especially in prayer (Heb. 13:17)

IV. Appointment Of Elders
A. Acts. 20:28—The initiative is with God, the Holy Spirit. Compare the New Testament picture of Paul’s apostleship:
   1. Father ➔Son ➔Holy Spirit ➔Human ministry
   2. Recognition in the church makes calling fully effective
B. Acts 14:23—Paul and Barnabas were the human instruments of the Holy Spirit
C. Tit. 1:5—Titus, carrying out apostolic responsibility, was to appoint elders

V. Responsibilities Of The Congregation
A. Remember—especially in prayer (Heb. 13:7)
B. Imitate
C. Obey—outward act (Heb. 13:17)
D. Submit—inner attitude (it is possible to be submissive even when not obeying
(compare Acts 5:29)

E. *Honor* (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

F. *Support financially* (There is a *financial aspect* to *scriptural honor*)—compare Prov. 3:9; Matt. 15:3–6; Acts 28:10

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