

Lessons In Leadership
“Elders: Leadership in Transition”
The Book of Acts

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At some point after Pentecost, the apostles

transitioned the oversight of the church to the elders in the local churches.

- It began with the elders in Jerusalem – Jewish believers (Acts 11:30; 15:1-23, 16:4)
- It continued throughout the Roman Empire – Gentile believers (Acts 14:21-28; 20 17-38)

The responsibilities of the elders in the church included:

- Receiving and distributing relief to the poor (Acts 11:30)
- Solving controversy and establishing doctrinal foundations (Acts 15:1-35)
- Giving counsel and guidance (Acts 21:8-25)
- Protecting the church (Acts 20:28-31)
- Shepherding the flock (Acts 20:28-31)

Why is this important for you and me?

Because we see that:

- God has established leadership in His church from its inception.
- This leadership occurred in an orderly and natural fashion.
- It contains elements of God's pattern of leadership from other institutions.
- God establishes the function of leadership but allows freedom in the form that it takes.