Intro: Of that which bears _____________ upon the church nothing under Christ will affect the church more than its leadership. ... The organization, the decisions, the direction, the teachings, the individuals, the marriages, the families, the spirituality and maturity of the church will all be directly affected by the leadership. Whether the congregation will be a people of turmoil or peace, of pride or humility, of chaos or order will be largely determined by the leadership. It is vital that the church's leadership be ordained, structured, operating and respected according to the _______ ___ _______.

A. The question is not “How shall we lead the church?” But rather, “How does the __________ teach that the church is to be lead?” What kind of government has Christ established for His church? And how shall we worshipfully respond to _______________ regarding the leadership of the church. As we dive into our text we will seek to answer these questions.

B. By properly ministering to tried and tested elders we put away those who are false and edify those who are truly ordained by Christ, diminishing the risk of false teachers gaining a foot hold in the church while _________________ _______ elders to stay on, ministering undistracted and with joy.

I. The ____________ .

A. The term elder signifies _______________ and honor. The Overseers who Pastor the church are to be ______________ as Elders.

B. Elders are Christ’s stewards of the church, ___________ Christ’s charge. This is their great privilege. It is through their ministry that Christ _____________ His church.

C. Elders’ serve in ________________ where the many work together as a team, each one bearing __________ voice and authority.

1. Elders lead, rule, govern, and serve the local church as a team, in the plurality of shared ________________, each one according to their gifts.

II. _________________ elders.

A. Elders who oversee the matters and persons of the church in a beautifully ____________ way, fulfilling their calling well, doing a ___________ job as is right worship before Christ, are to be considered worthy of double honor.
1. In this context the word *honor* carries the dual idea of high __________
coupled with ___________________ support.

2. The word double means ______________.

3. John Kitchen explains, “The verb (‘are to be considered worthy’) is a
present tense __________________ and thus demands ___________
that is repeated or continuous.”

   a. _______ consideration demands _________ actions.

4. The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy and all the
church to _______________ consider the elders who rule well to be worthy
of double _______________, giving special attention in this matter to those
who work diligently at preaching and teaching.

B. Elders are to receive honor from those whom they minister to for the Lord
Himself said, “The ______________ is ________________ of His wages.”

1. Such __________ is to be ___________ elders not with resentment,
or grudgingly, nor stingily, but in the spirit of the Word, with respect and
appreciation, as that meant to honor, as worship unto ____________, being
thankful that Christ gifted and sent such men to us, His church, to minister
His Word.

**Closing:** Here is a tangible means by which we are to actively worship our Lord and
______________: by honoring the elders whom He gifted and gave to His church.

“And He ___________ some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as
evangelists, and some as _______________ and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the
saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ”. (Eph. 4:11-12)

We are to _______________ those elders who rule well, especially those who diligently
strive in preaching and teaching. By this we honor _______________ who is the Head
of the church, who laid down His life for us.

By this the church is protected from false teachers as true _______ - _______________
elders fulfill the ministry of Christ to His church.

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