

## Lesson 2a -

# What, if any, Authority do Elders have?

Sometimes it seems like our culture considers the whole concept of authority something that is outdated and old-fashioned, something to be ignored or dismissed. We see it happening as it relates to the authority of parents with children, families with husbands, and citizens with government.

## The Significance in a Name

As we consider the nature of authority, if any, that is delegated to elders, let's look at the names and descriptions that have been given for them. Words mean something. Let's see what we can learn.

For each name or description, find a passage or two that mention it in regard to elders and describe what they tell us about any sense of authority that might be delegated.

**elder** - *presbuterion*

**bishop** - *episcopos*

**shepherd (pastor)** - *poiman*

**steward** - *oikonomo*

