

## **Pastor**

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The term "pastor" in referring to a preacher is not what the New Testament teaches. The word "pastor" is used in the New Testament in reference to elders, not preachers. The word "pastor" is the Greek word "*poimen*" and means "a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks." In Acts 20:17, Paul "called the elders of the church." To those elders, Paul said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). The elders are the overseers; they are to feed the church. The elders are the pastors of the church. The words "to feed" in Acts 20:28 go back to the Greek word "poimen." Elders are under Christ (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17).

There cannot be just one elder in each church; there must be more than one. Acts 14:23, "...elders in every church..." (Titus 1:5). Therefore, the term "the pastor" is a false term in referring to a person. A preacher could be an elder if he met the qualifications (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; 1 Peter 5), but then there must be more than one elder.