

PRIMARY BIBLE TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH

The inference in Scripture is that the elders are to have a significant role in teaching the Bible in church. My understanding from the three passages below as well as the numerous illustrations of the apostles' *[first elders]* lives, is that *[perhaps]* all the teaching in the early Church was done by elders.

I believe the Bible teaches that no one should serve as an elder who does not teach formal Bible classes with some regularity. He may teach at any age level he likes. All other Bible teachers are to reflect the qualifications of elders in I Timothy 3 & Titus 1.

The apostles *[12 elders in the Jerusalem church]* made it clear that they would not neglect their primary ministries of a.) prayer, and b.) teaching the Bible.
Acts 6.1-4

THE ELDERS' REQUIREMENT TO TEACH

I Timothy 3.2 elders. . . must be. . . apt *[able, not just willing]* to teach

II Timothy 2.24 the servant of the Lord. . . must be. . . apt to teach

Titus 1.9-16 *[elders]* holding fast the faithful word. . . that he may be able by sound doctrine to exhort and to convince *[refute, silence, reprove, etc.]*

OTHER BIBLE TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH

(A non-biblical but not anti-biblical opinion by Phil Myers) I consider the role of "job placement" one of the most significant responsibilities on the Church board.

It is obvious from Ephesians 4.11 and other Scripture that God empowers some believers to teach the Word. Some receive the special "gifting" from the Holy Spirit, and others, perhaps with the gift of "helps," just pitch in wherever they are needed, teaching, for instance.

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE THE GREATEST EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IN TOWN

Everybody must work.

It is my position and persuasion that one of the greatest opportunities the church leadership bears is to throw a mantle of ministry approval on the shoulders of everyone in the church. Everybody has a gift. Everybody is responsible, before God, to use his/her gift. No one is required to name his gift—just use it. For some in high-profile positions there may be an annual commissioning service: deacons, Bible teachers, special ministry leaders, etc.

For many others a less formal but just as fussy system may be sufficient. With the help of key decision makers throughout the church, wise people go thorough the church role and look for people who would be best-suited for various positions in the church ministries.

What would it do for your posture if one of the leaders of the church approached you by saying, "The pastor and I have been praying about you by name for over a month. We think you are the person best suited to oversee *[the kitchen or the pre-school class or the formation of the Christian Education Committee or the janitorial duties or hiring a lawn service or turning off the air conditioners and lights or teaching 7the grade girls or sit in the prayer chapel each Sunday and pray during the preaching service for 1 hour]*? How important would you view your task?