



Office of Elder
Part #2
Plurality & Equality



NEW TESTAMENT ELDERS

PLURALITY

YET

EQUALITY

SUPPORT

**ACTS 14:23
TITUS 1:5**

SUPPORT

1 TIM 5:17

Plurality of Elders



PLURALITY OF ELDERS

PASSAGE	LOCATION	DATE*
JAM 5:14	"OF THE CHURCH" (in disperia)	AD 45
ACTS 11:30 GAL 2:1-10	JERUSALEM	AUTUMN AD 47
ACTS 14:21-23	"IN EVERY CHURCH" (Lystra, Iconium, Antioch)	JUNE-AUGUST AD 49
ACTS 15:2,4,6,22	JERUSALEM	AUTUMN AD 49
ACTS 20:17	"OF THE CHURCH" (Ephesus)	MAY AD 57
ACTS 21:17-18	JERUSALEM	MAY AD 57
PHIL 1:1	PHILIPPI	SPRING AD 62
1 PETER 5:1	"AMONG YOU" (in disperia)	AD 64
TITUS 1:5	"IN EVERY CITY" (of Crete)	SUMMER AD 66

* Source: *A Chronological Table of the Apostolic Age* by Dr. Hoehner



Equality in Elders



1 TIMOTHY 5:17

The elders who **rule** well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at **preaching** and **teaching**.
(NASB)

Let the elders who **rule** well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the **word** and **doctrine**.
(NKJV)

The way we choose to look
at things can be as significant
as the things we are trying to see.

William R. Thurston
President of GenRad, Inc

FIRST TIMOTHY 5:17

21st Century Older Traditional View

One Kind of Elder:
One per Church
One Preacher

"Able to Teach"
=
Ability

"Word"
=
Preaching

"Doctrine"
=
Teaching

Comparison
between Elders
based on Diligence

21st Century Newer Traditional View

Two Kinds of Elders:
All Ruler
One Preacher

"Able to Teach"
=
Character Trait

"Word"
=
Preaching

"Doctrine"
=
Teaching

Comparison
between Elders
based on Ability

1st Century View

One Kind of Elder:
All Rule
All Teach

"Able to Teach"
=
Ability

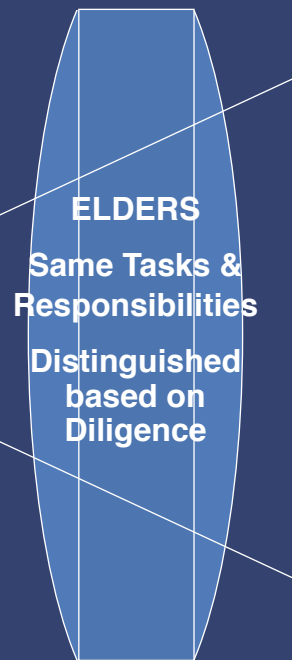
"Word"
=
Verbalization

"Doctrine"
=
Internalization

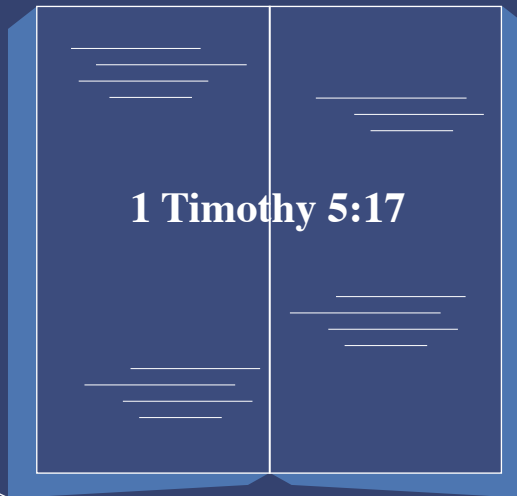
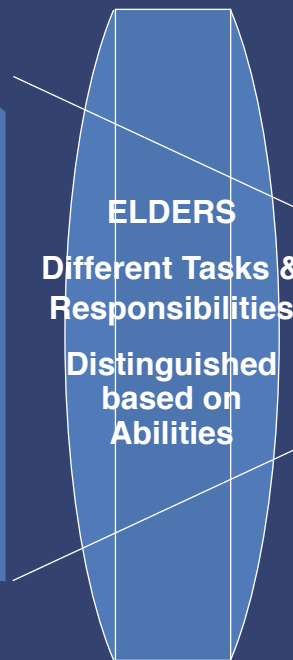
Comparison
between Elders
based on Diligence

INTERPRETATION PROBLEM

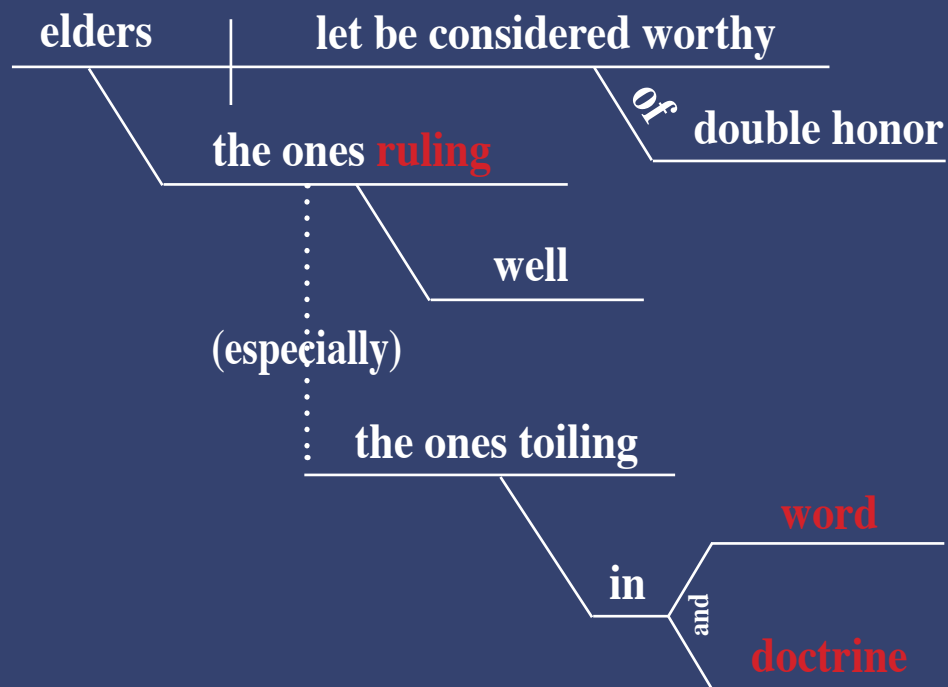
1ST CENTURY
CULTURAL
LENS



21ST CENTURY
CULTURAL
LENS



FIRST TIMOTHY 5:17
(Diagrammed)



FIRST TIMOTHY 5:17
(Text)

ENGLISH	GREEK	IDENTIFICATION	ROOT
The (ones)	<i>ohi</i>	pl, nom, masc	<i>ho</i>
well	<i>kalos</i>	adverb	<i>kalos</i>
ruling	<i>proestotes</i>	pl, nom, masc, part, perf	<i>proistemi</i>
elders	<i>presbuteroi</i>	pl, nom, masc	<i>presbuteros</i>
of double	<i>diples</i>	sg, genative, fem	<i>diplous</i>
honor	<i>times</i>	sg, genative	<i>time</i>
let be deemed			
worthy	<i>axiousathosan</i>	3 per, pl, pres, pass, imper	<i>axioo</i>
especially	<i>malista</i>	adverb	<i>malista</i>
the (ones)	<i>ohi</i>	pl, nom, masc	<i>ho</i>
laboring	<i>kopiontes</i>	pl, nom, masc, part, pres	<i>kopiso</i>
in	<i>en</i>	preposition	<i>en</i>
word	<i>logo</i>	sg, dative	<i>logos</i>
and	<i>kai</i>	conjunction	<i>kai</i>
teaching	<i>didaskalia</i>	sg, dative	<i>didaskalia</i>

1 TIMOTHY 5:17

The elders who rule **well** are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who **work hard** at preaching and teaching. (NASB)

Let the elders who rule **well** be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who **labor** in the word and doctrine. (NKJV)



LABOR (NT Epistles)

PASSAGE	1	TEXT	CONTEXT
ROM 16 6	X	Greet Mary, who has <i>worked hard</i> for you	TOILING
	12	X Greet . . . Yryphosa, who <i>worked hard</i>	TOILING
	12	X Greet Persis . . . who has <i>labored</i> in many ways	TOILING
1 COR 4 12	X	And we <i>toil</i> , working with our hands	TOILING
	15 10	X But I <i>labored</i> even more than all of them	TOILING
	16 16	X To everyone working and <i>laboring</i> with me	TOILING
GAL 4 11	X	Fear . . . that perhaps I have <i>labored</i> in vain	TOILING
EPH 4 28	X	Rather let him <i>labor</i> , working . . . with his hands	TOILING
PHIL 2 16	X	I ran not in vain, nor <i>labored</i> among you in vain	TOILING
COL 1 29	X	I <i>labor</i> , struggling according to working of Him	TOILING
1 THE 5 12	X	That you know those <i>laboring</i> among you	TOILING
1 TIM 4 10	X	For it is for this we <i>labor</i> and strive	TOILING
	5 17	X They who <i>labor</i> in word and doctrine	TOILING
2 TIM 2 6	X	The farmer <i>laboring</i> ought to be first to receive	TOILING
	14	1 Labor <i>kapiaw</i>	

DISTINCTION IN ELDERS
1 Timothy 5:17

FIRST ISSUE

Lead Well

OPTIONS

Lead

Lead Well

SECOND ISSUE

Toil in Word and Doctrine

OPTIONS

Ministry of Word and Doctrine

Toil in Ministry of Word and Doctrine



1 TIMOTHY 5:17

The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at **preaching** and **teaching**.
(NASB)

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the **word** and **doctrine**.
(NKJV)



DOCTRINE (Pastoral Epistles)

PASSAGE	WORD			TEXT	CONTEXT					
	1	2	3		A	B	C			
1 TIM	1	10		X	That is contrary to sound <i>doctrine</i>			X		
	2	12	X		Suffer not a woman to <i>teach</i>					X
	4	1		X	Seducing spirits, and <i>doctrine</i> of devils			X		
		6		X	Nourished in words of faith and <i>doctrine</i>			X		
		11	X		These things command and <i>teach</i>					X
		13		X	To reading, to exhortation, to <i>doctrine</i>				X	
		16		X	Take heed of yourself and to the <i>teaching</i>			X		
	5	17		X	They who labor in word and <i>doctrine</i>			X		
	6	1		X	That. . . <i>doctrine</i> be not blasphemed			X		
		2	X		These things <i>teach</i> and exhort					X
	3		X	<i>Doctrine</i> which is according to godliness			X			
2 TIM	2	2	X		Able to <i>teach</i> others also					X
	3	10		X	Carefully followed my <i>doctrine</i>			X		
		16		X	Scripture is . . . profitable for <i>doctrine</i>				X	
	4	2		X	Exhort with long suffering and <i>doctrine</i>				X	
	3		X	Endure sound <i>doctrine</i>				X		
TITUS	1	9		X	Word . . . in accordance to the <i>teaching</i>			X		
		9		X	May be able by sound <i>doctrine</i> to exhort			X		
		11	X		<i>Teaching</i> things which they ought not					X
	2	1		X	Speak . . . which become sound <i>doctrine</i>			X		
		7		X	Show yourself . . . with purity in <i>doctrine</i>			X		
		10		X	Adorn the <i>doctrine</i> of God our Saviour			X		
		5	2	15					13	4

1	Teach	didaskw	A	System of Thought
2	Teachings	didache	B	Instruction
3	Teachings	didaskalia	C	Act of Teaching

WORD & DOCTRINE (Pastoral Epistles)

1 Timothy 4:6

In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the **words** of the faith and of the sound **doctrine** which you have been following

1 Timothy 6:2c-3

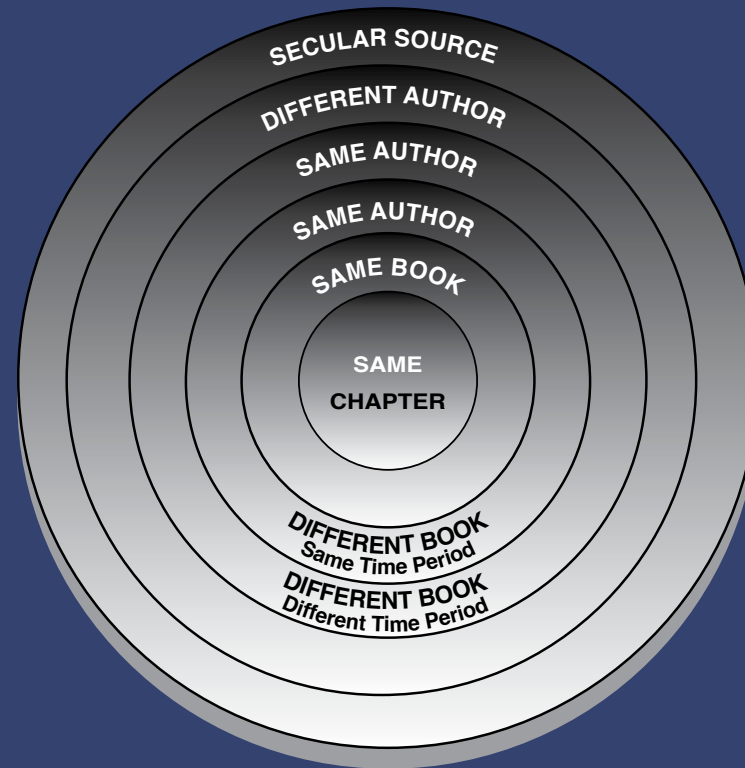
Teach and exhort these things. If anyone teaches differently and is not consistent with sound **words** of our Lord Jesus Christ and with **doctrine** according to godliness

Titus 1:9

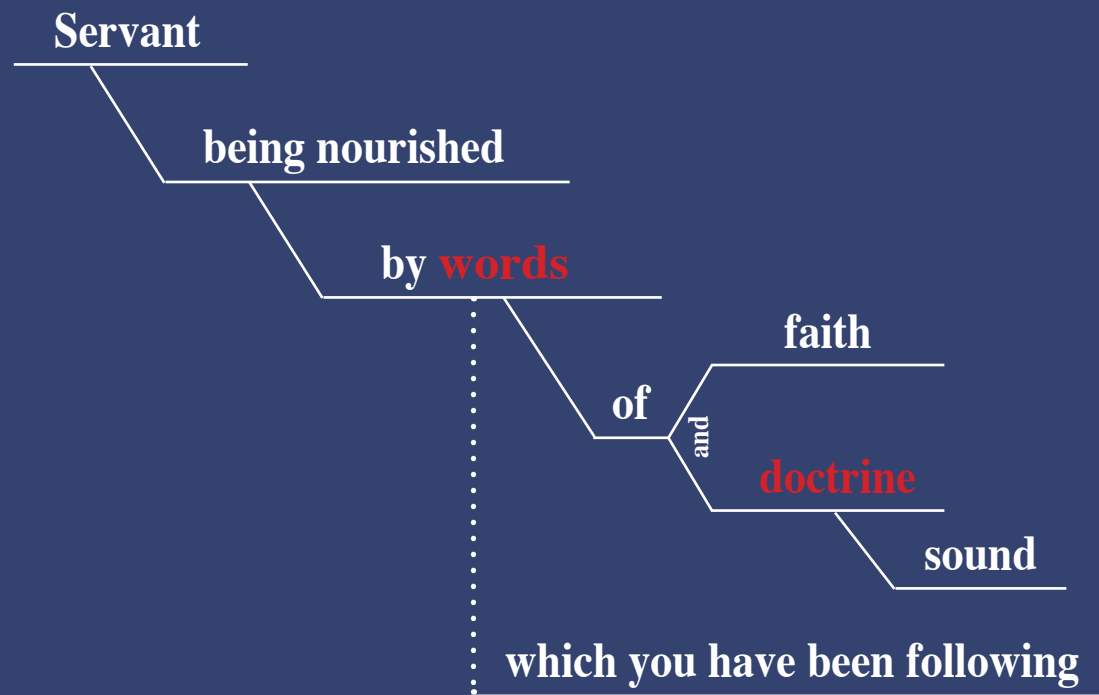
Holding to the faithful **word** according to the **doctrine**, that he may be able both to exhort by sound **doctrine** and to convince the ones contradicting



CONTEXT (Order of Importance)



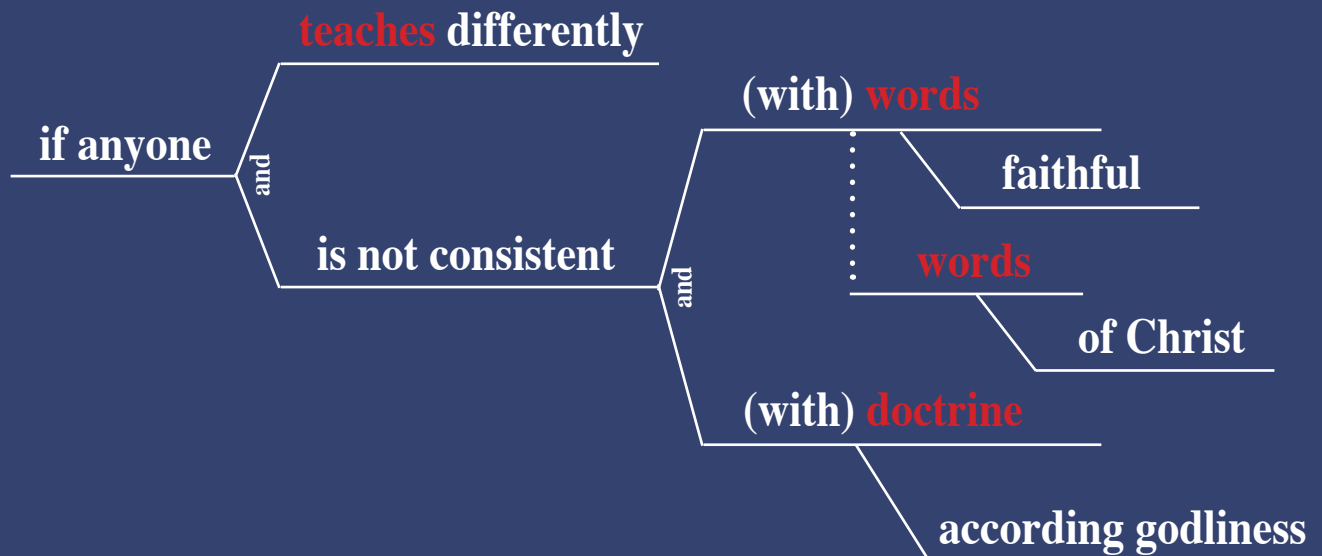
RELATIONSHIP of "WORD" and "DOCTRINE"
FIRST TIMOTHY 4:6
(Diagrammed)



FIRST TIMOTHY 4:6
(Text)

ENGLISH	GREEK	IDENTIFICATION	ROOT
servant being	<i>diakonos</i>	sg, nom	<i>diakonos</i>
nourished	<i>entrephomenos</i>	pres, pass, part, nom, sg, masc	<i>entrepho</i>
by the	<i>tois</i>	pl, dative	<i>ho</i>
words	<i>logois</i>	pl, dative	<i>logos</i>
of the	<i>tes</i>	sg, genative	<i>he</i>
faith	<i>pisteos</i>	sg, genative	<i>pistis</i>
and	<i>kai</i>	conjunction	<i>kai</i>
of the	<i>tes</i>	sg, genative	<i>he</i>
good	<i>kales</i>	sg, genative, fem	<i>kalos</i>
teaching	<i>didaskalias</i>	sg, genative	<i>didaskalia</i>
which	<i>he</i>	sg, dative, fem	<i>he</i>
you have			
followed	<i>parekolouthekas</i>	2 per, pl, perf, act, ind	<i>parekoloutheo</i>

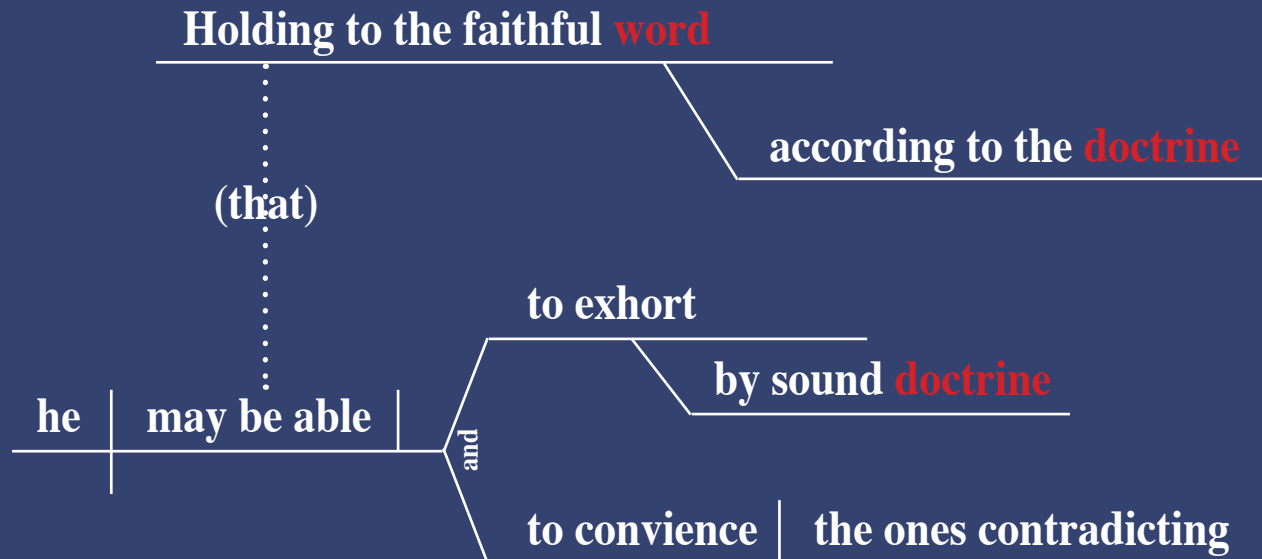
RELATIONSHIP of "WORD" and "DOCTRINE"
FIRST TIMOTHY 6:2-3
(Diagrammed)



FIRST TIMOTHY 6:2-3
(Text)

ENGLISH	GREEK	IDENTIFICATION	ROOT
These things	<i>tauta</i>	nom & acc, pl, neut	<i>ohutos</i>
teach	<i>didasde</i>	2 per, sg, pres, imper, act	<i>didasko</i>
and	<i>kai</i>	conjunction	<i>kai</i>
exhort	<i>parakalei</i>	2 per, sg, pres, imper, act	<i>parakaleo</i>
If	<i>ei</i>	particle—introduces condition	<i>ei</i>
anyone	<i>tis</i>	interrogative pronoun	<i>tis</i>
teaches			
differently	<i>heterdidaskalei</i>	3 per, sg, pres, ind	<i>heterdidaskaleo</i>
and	<i>kai</i>	conjunction	<i>kai</i>
consents	<i>proserchetai</i>	3 per, sg, pres, ind	<i>proserchomai</i>
not	<i>me</i>	negative particle	<i>me</i>
to wholesome	<i>hugiainousin</i>	pl, dat, masc, part, pres	<i>hugiaino</i>
words	<i>logois</i>	pl, dative	<i>logos</i>
the (words)	<i>tios</i>	pl, dative	<i>ho</i>
of the	<i>tou</i>	sg, genative	<i>ho</i>
Lord	<i>Kuriou</i>	sg, genative	<i>Kurios</i>
of us	<i>henon</i>	pl, genative (pronoun)	<i>ego</i>
Jesus	<i>Iesou</i>	sg, genative	<i>Iesous</i>
Christ	<i>Xristou</i>	sg, genative	<i>Xristos</i>
and	<i>kai</i>	conjunction	<i>kai</i>
to the	<i>te</i>	sg, dative	<i>he</i>
according	<i>kat</i>	preposition (with acc.)	<i>kata</i>
godliness	<i>eusebeian</i>	sg, acc	<i>eusebeia</i>
teaching	<i>didaskalia</i>	sg, dative	<i>didaskalia</i>

RELATIONSHIP of "WORD" and "DOCTRINE"
FIRST TITUS 1:9
(Diagrammed)



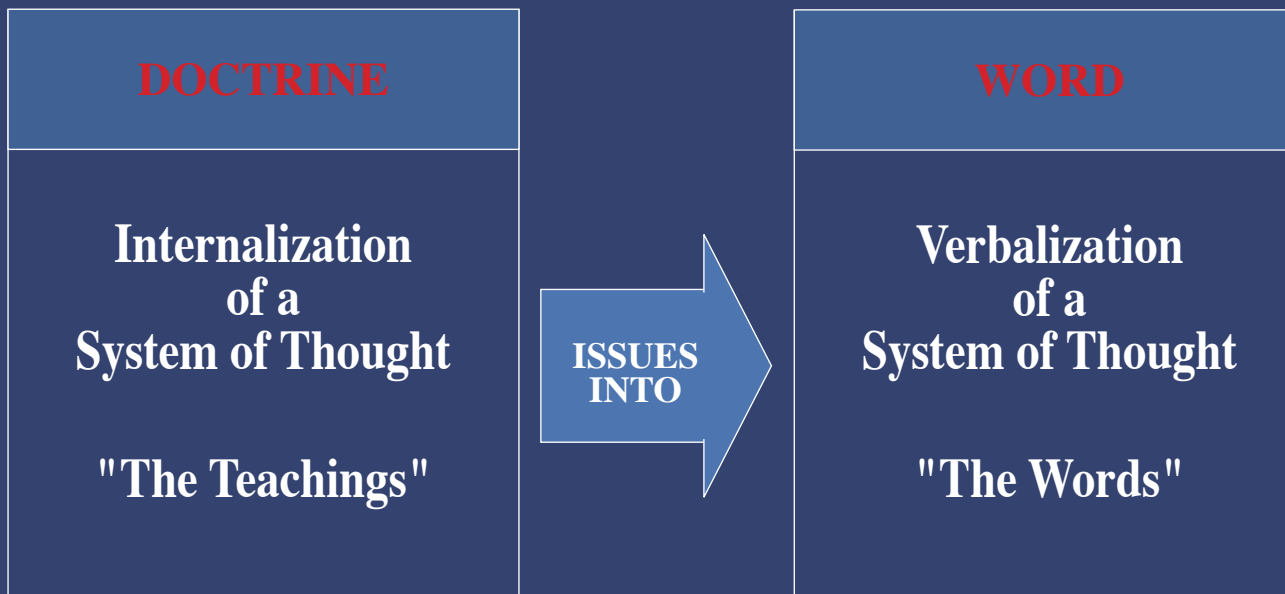
TITUS 1:9
(Text)

ENGLISH	GREEK	IDENTIFICATION	ROOT
<p> Holding to the according to the teaching faithful word in order that able he may be both to exhort by the teaching — sound and the ones contradicting to convince </p>	<p> <i>antechomenon</i> <i>tou</i> <i>kata</i> <i>ten</i> <i>didachen</i> <i>pistou</i> <i>logou</i> <i>hina</i> <i>dunatos</i> <i>e</i> <i>kai</i> <i>parakalein</i> <i>en</i> <i>te</i> <i>didaskalia</i> <i>te</i> <i>hugiainouse</i> <i>kai</i> <i>tous</i> <i>antilegontas</i> <i>elegchein</i> </p>	<p> sg, acc, masc, part, pres sg, genative preposition (with acc.) sg, acc sg, acc sg, genative sg, genative conjunction sg, nom 3 per, sg, pres, subj conjunction pres, infin, act preposition sg, dative sg, dative sg, dative (article) sg, dat, fem, part, pres conjunction pl, acc pl, acc, masc, part, pres pres, infin, act </p>	<p> <i>antecho</i> <i>ho</i> <i>kata</i> <i>he</i> <i>didache</i> <i>pistos</i> <i>logos</i> <i>hina</i> <i>dunatos</i> <i>eimi</i> <i>kai</i> <i>parakaleo</i> <i>en</i> <i>e</i> <i>didaskalia</i> <i>e</i> <i>hugiaino</i> <i>kai</i> <i>ho</i> <i>antilego</i> <i>elegcho</i> </p>

RELATIONSHIP of "WORD" and "DOCTRINE" (Pastoral Epistles)

PASSAGE	TEXT	COMMENT
1 Timothy 4:6	Servant . . . being nourished by words of the faith and the sound doctrine which you have been following	Doctrine issues into Words
1 Timothy 6:2-3	Teach and exhort these things. If anyone teaches differently and is not consistent to faithful words of Christ and to doctrine according to godliness	What taught must be consistent with the Words of Christ and Doctrine
Titus 1:9	Holding to the faithful word according to the doctrine , that he may be able both to exhort by sound doctrine and to convince the ones contradicting	Doctrine issues into Words

RELATIONSHIP of "WORD" and "DOCTRINE"
1 Timothy 5:17



Similarities & Distinctions in Elders



NO DISTINCTIONS IN RESPONSIBILITIES
(Comments on 1 Timothy 5:17)
Page 1 of 2

Those who work hard or toil...in preaching and teaching (most probable meaning) or those who teach and preach and not merely preside (**a doubtful distinction in "elder" at this time**).

A. T. Robertson
Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol IV, The Epistles of Paul, 588. © 1931

"Especially those toiling in connection with word and teaching" does not mean that some elders did not teach, for **all were required to have** (and thus to use) **this ability**.

Richard C. H. Lenski
St. Paul's Epistle to Timothy, 681-82. © 1937

There is some ground for the view that there were two kinds of "elders" ...but it is possible to explain these statements as **describing differing qualities in the same man**.

Henry C. Thiessen
Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology, 419. © 1949



NO DISTINCTIONS IN RESPONSIBILITIES
(Comments on 1 Timothy 5:17)
Page 2 of 2

One function of elders is seen in the words "that rule well"...A second function of the elders is indicated in the words "especially those who labor in the word and in teaching." This does not mean, as some suppose, that there are two kinds of elders, ruling elders and teaching elders. The qualifications required in the man to be appointed to the office show that **both functions** were to be **united in one person** (3:2,4,5). They were to be "**apt to teach**" as well as **able to rule** well. In the New Testament **both functions are seen combined in the elders.**

D. Edmond Hiebert
First Timothy, 101. © 1957



OFFICE OF ELDER

SIMILARITIES

ABILITIES

All Able to **Lead**
&
All Able to **Teach**

DISTINCTIONS

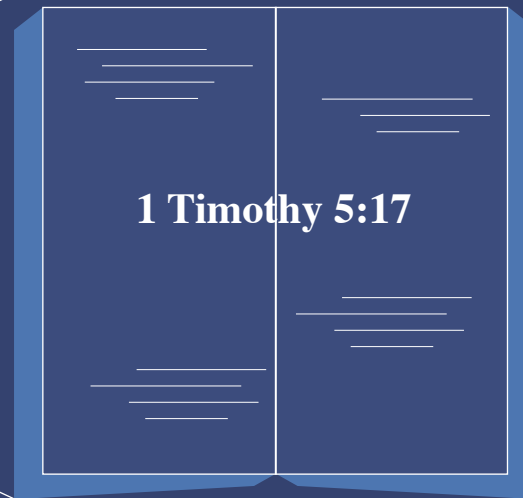
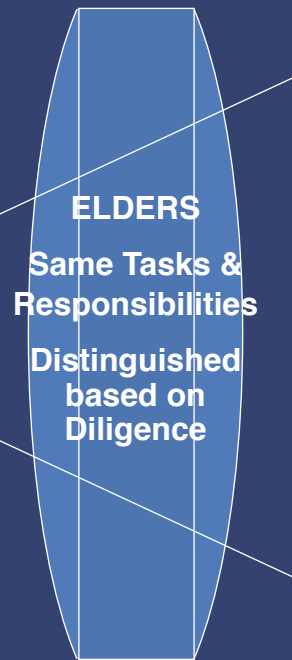
DILIGIENCE

Leads **Well**
&
Toils in Word
and Doctrine



INTERPRETATION PROBLEM

1ST CENTURY
CULTURAL
LENS



21ST CENTURY
CULTURAL
LENS

