

The first leaders in the Church appointed the elders in each community at the beginning. But later, as numbers increased, churches had to appoint their own leaders, according to the standards given them by the Apostles. Writing to Titus the Apostle Paul says:

I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

(Titus 1:5-6)

In that same Epistle, Paul goes on to list the qualifications required for those who would occupy such an office. This is exactly what he had written to his young Disciple Timothy in First Timothy chapter three.

However, Paul was well aware how some could know leadership was all about serving, but lack the experience to know what that involved. Therefore, he warns the local churches not to ordain any recent convert, lest he be "puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil."