

Character of Home Visits

When an office-bearer is ordained, he promises to faithfully discharge the duties of his office. As good shepherds of Christ's flock and faithful watchmen over the house of God, elders are to be diligent in governing the church, in comforting the distressed, and in admonishing the wayward. With patience and perseverance they are to exhort, admonish, comfort and encourage all the members to a life of faith and godliness. This is truly an awesome task. Therefore congregational members ought to keep praying for their office-bearers that they are granted wisdom, courage, discretion and mercy.

If we keep in mind the character of the office of elder we will more readily appreciate the character of home visits. The elders do not enter the homes as friends of the family or as social acquaintances but as ambassadors of Christ. They come in his name and with his authority. Both congregation and office-bearers should be deeply aware of this during a home visit. The elders do not come bearing their own wisdom but they are to direct each and every member to the comfort, instruction and exhortation of the Word of God.

The congregation ought to be reminded of this in preaching, catechism instruction and at the beginning of a new home visit season. For the sake of their office elders must be shown proper respect. *"Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you"* (Titus 2:15)