

**What is this TXT Fondue program about?**

The goal of this program is to explain what the Bible means with the role of an elder. Why are elders necessary and what requirements must one meet to be an elder? In this program, we want to clarify the meaning of the concept of an "elder", we want to restore the priesthood of all believers, and initiate the process of activating those who qualify to become an elder.

**How is a TXT Fondue played?**

Two teams take turns in asking each other questions. There usually are 12 questions for each team. The team that has question 1a begins with asking. After the question has been asked and in some cases a passage from the Scriptures has been read, the other team has one minute to discuss their answer. Then they give their final answer and the team that asked the question decides whether the answer is correct. Keep in mind that if your team demands strict answers, the other team will do the same.

*Not the answer but the process*

With a TXT Fondue, it's not about the answer, but all about the process. Questions will lead to new questions, which is good, but keep these thoughts until after the TXT Fondue, so that the program may continue fluently and dynamically. That is important, because a TXT Fondue is actually a sermon that is divided into chunks. It is apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42), so just like any sermon it has a structure that builds up to an application. Those who wish to go in-depth can do so afterwards.

*Referee*

Like the referee ensures that the rules of play are respected, the elder in a house feast supervises that all that is said remains Biblical (1 Timothy 4:16). There are just two rules: if someone says something unbiblical, the elder takes corrective action, like a referee in football issues a yellow card. In case of sin, he intervenes, comparable to a red card.

*Feedback*

Have you got a suggestion? Did you discover an error in a TXT Fondue program? Let us know through [HuisfeestNetwerk.org](http://HuisfeestNetwerk.org)! Questions regarding the contents can be discussed with the House Feast Network at [facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork](http://facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork).

Version: August 22, 2013.

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**What is the House Feast Network?**

Those who are in the house feasts intend to reach all people in their own network who have not yet been reached with the gospel.

*Networking*

Of course you are curious to see how other house feasts do things. You wish to pay each other visits, help each other, and in any case you celebrate a large feast together, three times a year. To facilitate this, we have set up a House Feast Network group on Facebook: [facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork](http://facebook.com/HouseFeastNetwork). Elders can exchange their experiences at [facebook.com/groups/Oudsten](http://facebook.com/groups/Oudsten).

*Share impressions*

House feasts support one another by continually sharing photos in "The House Feast Network". House feasts unite because of this. We prefer that the ambience pictures you share do not intrude people's privacy.

**What is the Learnhouse?**

A collection of 84 TXT Fondue programs together form a complete training to spiritual maturity. It is composed of 7 fundaments, with 12 programs per fundaments. The program you now hold is part of the fifth fundament: sanctification.

We recommend you to read the books of James, Matthew, Luke, Proverbs and the entire Bible while you take the 12 lessons in this fundament.

**Previous program:**

5.11 Ambassador

**This program:**

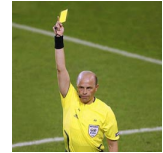
5.12 Elders

**Next program:**

6.01 Seven fundaments

For an overview of all programs, see the [Learnhouse](#).

	1. Conversion	2. Baptism	3. Holy Spirit	4. Evangelization and deacony	5. Sanctification	6. Future	7. Houses
1	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
2	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
3	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
4	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
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9	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
10	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
11	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
12	↓	↓	↓	↓	5.12		



**1a. What is most important thing about your life?**

(answer) That you are saved.

**2a. Why should I worry to save others?**

(answer) In obedience to God the Father; in fear of the Lord.

**3a. After your conversion, you develop into spiritual maturity. What is the goal of spiritual maturity?**

(answer) Bearing fruit.

**4a. The next questions will be about the Book of 2 John. It is recommended that everyone reads along from 2 John in his own Bible. The first question will be: who (plural) greet whom in this letter?**

The elder, to the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

**Who (plural) greet whom in this letter?**

(answer) The letter’s author and a house church greet another house church (the chosen lady and her children).

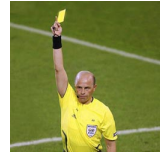
**5a. Acts 16:14–15 says:**

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

**What did Lydia do after someone *did* bring her “the teaching of Christ” and baptized her?**

(answer) She took the apostle Paul into her house.

(comment) In other words, if someone does bring you good teachings, then you should also let them into your house.



**6a. So that means that your input and creativity really are welcome. 1 Corinthians 14:26 names five possible ingredients, namely: a hymn, a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Translate these five into your own words.**

(answer) The team asking the question decides whether the five words are correct.

(comment) *A possible example: "Lyric, eye-opener, inspiration, language, background info."*

**7a. A football referee can issue a yellow card and a red card. Name an example when an elder issues a yellow card, and when he issues a red card.**

(answer) When someone says something unbiblical, he issues a yellow card. When someone says or do something that is sin, he issues a red card.

**8a. Just as in Titus, 1 Timothy 3:2–7 (NKJV) mentions criteria for elders:**

**A bishop [elder] then must be blameless,  
the husband of one wife,**

**temperate,  
sober-minded,  
of good behavior,  
hospitable,  
able to teach;**

**not given to wine,  
not violent,  
not greedy for money,  
but gentle,  
not quarrelsome,  
not covetous;**

**one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all  
reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he  
take care of the church of God?);**

**not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation  
as the devil.**

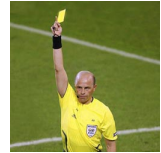
**Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he  
fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**

**Which of the above criteria is associated with these practical examples?**

- **The elder has faith in his son or daughter.**
- **His mature sons and daughters are proud of their father.**
- **He creates peace, purity and consistency.**
- **His spouse is loved and honored.**

(answer) He must rule his own house well.

(comment) *In Titus 1:6–9, the apostle Paul notes that the house of the elder actually belongs to God the Father, and that the elder is a steward of the house of God the Father.*



**9a. Another criterium for an elder stated in Titus, is that this elder must have children who believe. What age category does the Bible mean by "child"?**

(answer) Under age 12.

(comment) *The Bible considers all ages 12 and up "sons and daughters". Think of the parable of the prodigal son.*

**10a. Must an apostle always be a man?**

(answer) No.

(comment) *Galatians 3:28 says: "In Christ is neither male nor female." And 1 Corinthians 12:7 says: "The ministries of the Holy Spirit are given to each one."*



**11a. (Please read the bold text of this question aloud.)**

**In the days of the Reformation, God the Father gave the Word back to His people. In these days, He gives us back the church the way it existed in the Book of Acts.**

**The Book of Acts describes one event where God the Father commissions the apostle Peter to visit Cornelius, a heathen who was faithful to God's Word. Peter installed him as elder. The team asking the question will demonstrate using pantomime which two activities an elder practices, the way Cornelius did as well. The other team will try and guess both of these.**

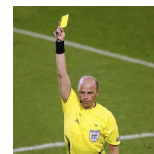
(answer) The other team must name both corectly:

1. Prayer.
2. Giving gifts (to the poor).

(comment) *This is mentioned in Acts 10:4: "Cornelius stared at him in fear. 'What is it, Lord?' he asked. The angel answered, 'Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.'"*

**12a. Will you commit yourself to search for elders, like Titus did?**

(answer) Yes, we look up elders (our fathers) and restore them in their ministry.



**1b. What is the second most important thing about your life?**

(answer) That you have been saved to save others.

(comment) *This is a quote from William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army.*

**2b. Which expression of an emotion is associated with your motivation to save others?**

(answer) Crying; out of compassion for souls.

(comment) *A beautiful example is John 11:35: "Jesus wept."*



**3b. Which of these four descriptions is *not* a name for the Church from the New Testament?**

- a. The woman;
- b. The Body of Christ;
- c. The virgin;
- d. The bride.

(answer) The correct answer is "c. The virgin".

(comment) *The Church has many children.*

**4b. We just read in the Second letter of John, that the Church must walk in love. What must you do when someone tries to keep you from doing this?**

(answer) You must not receive him, nor welcome him.

(comment) *John writes this in verse 10: "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them."*

**5b. In 1 Corinthians 14:26 it says: "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." Who may contribute when you gather in your home?**

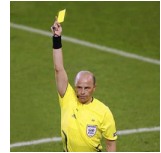
(answer) Everyone is being taken seriously, and they may contribute in their own way.

**6b. The Bible says about the role of an elder, that he is responsible for keeping whatever happens during a house feast on the right track. 1 Timothy 4:16 says: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." What is it the elder keeps a close eye on?**

(answer) That the teaching (doctrine) remains biblical.

**7b. Titus was sent out with a checklist, the "Titus-check" (Titus 1:6–9, NKJV), containing criteria based on which he would seek and appoint elders:**

if a man is blameless,  
the husband of one wife,  
having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.  
For a bishop [an elder] must be blameless, as a steward of God,  
not self-willed,  
not quick-tempered,  
not given to wine,  
not violent,  
not greedy for money,  
but hospitable,  
a lover of what is good, [continues on the next page]



[7b. continued]

**sober-minded,**

**just,**

**holy,**

**self-controlled,**

**holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**

**One of the criteria is that it must be a man. Why must the elder be a man?**

(answer) The woman is an image of the Body of Christ. A body cannot control itself; that is what the head does. Ephesians 5:23 says: "For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior."

(comment) *It is just as with football: the referee controls, but the players are the ones who stand in the spotlights and are the ones who score. The elder has a supportive role, but the men and women together bear fruit.*

**8b. In the Bible books of Titus and 1 Timothy are clear criteria for elders. For example, he must be the husband of one wife. This means that if a man is divorced and later remarried another woman, he cannot be an elder. Please explain.**

(answer) The husband is the image of Christ, and the wife the image of the church. Christ remains faithful to his church forever.

(comment) *The NIV interprets "husband of one wife" as "faithful to his wife".*

**9b. You can take the Titus-check yourself with your own family, using Titus 1:6–9 in your own Bible. But who appoints/installs the elder?**

(answer) There are several possible answers. The other team needs to name only one:

1. A council of elders.
2. An apostle.

(comment) *An apostle can be compared with a midwife, who is involved with the beginning of bearing spiritual fruit.*

*To help you take the Titus-check, we have put the criteria from Titus 1:6–9 in a convenient checklist, which you can find on page 7, and on [huisfeestnetwerk.org](http://huisfeestnetwerk.org) under "House Feasts > Elders".*

**10b. Appointing elders is one of the most important things the House Feast Network does. Aside from the Titus check, may you also formulate other conditions that a potential elder must meet, such as a theological education, a Bible school, a higher education level, or an executive job?**

(answer) No, the Titus-check is entirely sufficient.

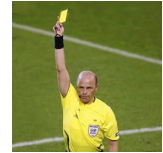
(comment) *1 Timothy 3:1 says: "Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task."*

**11b. Acts 10:24 says: "The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends." To the astonishment of the apostle Peter, all those present that night are filled with the Holy Spirit. They speak in tongues, exalt God the Father, and let themselves be baptized. Who were these people?**

(answer) Friends and family of Cornelius.

**12b. Will you commit yourself to bear fruit as a spiritually mature?**

(answer) Yes, we wish to become elders (men) or take on our ministries (all) to win the world around us for King Jesus.



**Titus-check**

The Titus-check is a checklist with the 18 criteria that are enumerated in Titus 1:6–9, describing the core tasks and competencies associated with being a spiritually mature person or an elder. Circle for each criterium whether it needs improvement (n.i.), is sufficient (suff), or is good. Did you circle “n.i.” or “no” somewhere, then briefly explain why you did so and determine for yourself what you intend to do about this and by when. Answer the questions truthfully. You are personally responsible for the consequences of falsely representing the way things are. We recommend you let two other persons fill out this checklist for you, so that this gives you a 360°-observation on where you stand.

*1 Peter 5:1–4: "To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."*

Criterium Titus-check	Rating			Why n.i. or no? What actions will I take? Improved by when?
	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you blameless?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you the husband of one wife?	no	yes	n/a	
Do your children (under age 12) believe?	no	yes	n/a	
Can you not be accused of having children (under age 12) who are wild/ loose or unruly/disobedient?	no	yes	n/a	
Are you not arrogant; are you not proud?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you not quick-tempered?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you not addicted?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you not violent?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you not greedy for dishonest gain?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you hospitable?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you a lover of good?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you sober-minded?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you just?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you pure?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you self-controlled (disciplined)?	n.i.	suff	good	
Do you hold fast to the true teaching?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you able to encourage others?	n.i.	suff	good	
Are you able to show the error of those who contradict the sound doctrine?	n.i.	suff	good	