

Questions for Elders

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Thanks for the opportunity to share. There are dozens of questions one should ask when entering this kind of relationship. There are two that I have relied on to “gauge” an eldership’s demeanor in the early days of the relationship.

1. What would it take to sever our relationship? (Beyond the obvious moral and doctrinal implications, what do they not want to see in me, so I can avoid doing that?)
2. What is the eldership’s policy/position on continuing education? (This was significant to me in order to see how the elders felt about my growth and learning, or if they prefer I not and stay ignorant.)

There is a third question, once the “screening” questions have been asked of me. I’m not sure if it is a question or a statement intended to convey a deeper sentiment.

3. Now that you have asked about my beliefs and faith, I’m curious when you will ask if I pray and how often? Or if I treat my wife and children with love and respect?

I recognize that such questions could be perceived as pompous, but that was the last intention when they were suggested and later used. The third is more of a revelation for the minister to the elders that shows this role transcends the presence in a pulpit or the occupation of an office space.