

Message Notes

The Safety of God-given Leadership

Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

1 Peter 5:1-3 “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

God what would you have us do next?

Jesus is the head of our church and the Holy Spirit guides us toward contentment in his leadership.

As in a home, or in our own relationship with God, a humble recognition of rightful authority brings benefits. In a church, when authority is used with the consent of the congregation for the good of the congregation, the congregation will benefit as God builds His church through the teachers He gives to His church. Satan’s lie—that authority is never to be trusted because it is always tyrannical and oppressive—will be subverted by the benevolent practice of and recognition of the elders’ authority in the context of the congregation.

So now what?

Shepherd the flock of God (1 Peter 5:2).

Elders serve Jesus by engaging the church with spiritual oversight. Elders feed, lead, protect, and nurture covenant members like shepherds do with sheep.

FOUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

TEACH

1 Timothy 3:2 “...able to teach.”

Know the word of God in such a way as to be able to teach sound doctrine and refute those who contradict it. There must be a ferocious appetite for God’s word.

He will be teaching more, carefully keeping a pulse on the quality of conversations concerning God’s word, and training others to understand and handle God’s word humbly and properly (2 Timothy 2:2).

LEAD

Elders keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account (Hebrews 13:17).

The goal is...

Ephesians 4:12-13 “ to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,”

MODEL

Elders lead by example. An Elders most basic job is to say, “imitate me as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

you must guard your heart (pursue holiness)

1 Timothy 4:16 “Pay close attention to your life and your teaching.”

live in radical hospitality

PRAY

Only the Holy Spirit can change the lives of people. As Elders it is imperative to be men of prayer. It is essential to continuously pray for heart transformation. The people of God need his continual work of grace.

take the time to know people and to pray for people

Acts 6:4 “ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”