

Shepherds for the Flock: God's Design for His Church

Week 2: How a Flock Follows

Scripture:

Hebrews 13:7, 17

Motivation (Why You Need This):

Last week we saw *who God gives to lead*. Today we ask *what God asks of the congregation in response to the elders*.

Shepherds must have a flock who is willing to be shepherded.

Having shepherds is not the same as being shepherded...

- **Suspicion** - we live in a world trained to distrust every authority
- **Independence** - we would rather be left alone than be led
- **Consumerism** - we can treat church like a service to use, not a body to belong to
- **Distance** - it is possible to attend for years and never be truly known
- **Resistance** - a church can have shepherds and still refuse to be led

Now that God is giving us shepherds, what does He ask of you?

Information (What You Need to Know):

How a healthy church responds to its shepherds...

- **Remember and imitate them**
Hebrews 13:7 (ESV) Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
 - ✓ Know who your elders are
 - ✓ Watch how elders live
 - ✓ Follow the faith of the elders (you'll see the good and the bad)
- **Follow their leadership and lighten their load**
Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
 - ✓ There is a call to obey and submit (not in response to pressure, but love)
 - ✓ They keep watch over your souls and will answer to God for it
 - ✓ Make their watching over you a joy, not a burden (seeing you mature)

- **Honor them**

1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV) Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

“The source of much of the Ephesian church’s difficulties was the inadequacy of the pastors. So, Paul explains to Timothy how to restore proper pastoral oversight. He sets forth the church’s obligations in regard to honoring, protecting, rebuking, and selecting elders.” – MacArthur Study Bible

- ✓ Elders should seek to lead well
- ✓ Honoring them is not flattery, but a respect for their work

Application (What You Need to Do):

What we are doing today

- We are setting apart seven men as the Lay Elder Team of The Summit
- Two pastoral elders and five lay elders, drawn from our own church family
- They have been trained, examined, and affirmed with no objections from our church family

We are not just installing seven men today. We are becoming the kind of church that lets itself be led.

It is easy to applaud for shepherds.

It is harder to follow them.

The health of this church will be measured less by the men we install and more by the way we receive them.

God asks you to...

- Pray for these men
- Go to them with your burdens
- Receive their counsel with an open heart
- Let their work be a joy and not a groaning

So, the question is: **Will you make their work a joy?**

These seven men will keep watch over your souls, but only One has kept watch perfectly – Jesus Christ.

John 10:11 (ESV) “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

We follow under-shepherds because we first follow Jesus.

Jesus kept watch over your soul all the way to a cross. He is the Shepherd who became the Lamb. Today we follow Him together - a flock and the shepherds He has given until the Chief Shepherd appears.

Installation of Elders:

- **Presentation** - call the seven men forward by name

Pastoral Elders: Tom Hogsed (Lead Pastor), Jeff Dayton (Associate Pastor)

Lay Elders: Tom Boosz, Scott Nofer, Nolan Oakes, Ace Sucaldito, Charlie Wilson

- **Charge to the elders**

Pastor: Brothers, you have been called by God and affirmed by His church to shepherd the people of The Summit. Before you are installed, hear the charge of this office, and answer before God and this congregation. Will you shepherd this flock - knowing its people, seeking the wandering, and caring for the hurting?

Will you give yourself to the Word - teaching what is true, guarding what is sound, and holding fast to the gospel?

Will you devote yourself to prayer - lifting this church before God in its joys and its trials?

Will you lead with humility and wisdom, seeking God's direction and not your own, in submission to Christ the Chief Shepherd?

Will you model a life worthy of imitation, above reproach in your home, your work, and your walk with the Lord?

Elders: We will.

Pastor: Then receive this charge: "Shepherd the flock of God that is among you... not domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:2–4). May the Lord who called you also keep you.

▪ **Charge to the congregation**

Pastor: Church family, these men cannot shepherd you alone. The Scriptures that call them to lead, also call you to walk with them. Hear your charge.

The Word says, "Remember your leaders... and imitate their faith," and, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls... Let them do this with joy and not with groaning" (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

So, I ask you:

Will you **pray for** these men, who will keep watch over your souls?

Will you **honor** them and the work God has given them to do?

Will you **follow** their leadership as they follow Christ, receiving their care and counsel with an open heart?

And will you **lighten their load** — making their work a joy and not a burden?

Congregation: We will.

▪ **Congregational affirmation**

Pastor: Would the congregation please stand.

These seven men - Tom Hogsed, Jeff Dayton, Tom Boosz, Scott Nofer, Nolan Oakes, Ace Sucaldito, and Charlie Wilson - have been examined, trained, and affirmed, and their names have been set before you.

We won't set these men over you without you. So, we ask you to add your voice:

Do you receive these men as elders of The Summit Church? And do you commit, before God, to support them, pray for them, and walk with them under the lordship of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

▪ **Laying on of hands and prayer (Jeff to lead)**