



BIG IDEA

“God gives the local church spiritual leaders, and he does so for our good, not for our harm. And as we submit to the spiritual leaders he’s appointed, we’re actually practicing submission to God. And one key aspect of the spiritual leaders of a church is the role of protecting those entrusted to their care from those who want to gain authority in the church for evil purposes.”

THOUGHTS FROM THE SERMON

1. How were you impacted by the message this week?
2. What did we learn about the final mark of a church?
3. How has a mistrust of authority affected every aspect of our life, including the church?
Read: Acts 20:17-38, 1 Corinthians 4:15-17, 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4, Philippians 2:6-8
4. What does scripture require of an elder? What does scripture require of those in the elder’s care?
5. What three things did we learn can build trust between those in authority and those under authority in the church?
6. In what ways can we be active participants in all three ways to build trust?
Read: Acts 20:28-32
7. Who are those shepherds and elders protecting us from? What does Paul tell these men?
8. What war is taking place that we can easily miss? What is the goal of the Enemy?
9. What did we learn the best part of our time spent together? Again how should we respond to reading and hearing the Word of God?
10. What will you do this week to help build trust with your shepherding elder?

NOTES

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

1. How were you personally challenged this week?
2. How can you actively participate in the building of trust between yourself and the elders of Gateway Church?
3. How has your view of an elder changed in light of what you have learned this week?
4. How will you personally apply what you learned from the sermon to your life?
5. How can your group hold you accountable this week? How can they encourage you?

DEEPER

Pray: This week, pray for the elders and their families of Gateway Church. You can find the list of elders on our website gatewayepc.org/elders-and-deacons

Read: Acts 20:17-38, 1 Corinthians 4:15-17, 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4, Philippians 2:6-8. Take time to reflect on these passages and write down your thoughts. Visit gatewayepc.org/news to read and review the sermon manuscript.

Write: Take time to write down your thoughts and insights from the sermon this week. Keeping a journal is just one more tool that you can use to track what God is showing you in your walk with him.

Sing: Listen to the worship songs from Sunday throughout the week. Look up the lyrics to each song and spend some time reading them as well.

Memorize: As a Life Group, pick a few verses from the sermon and memorize them this week. (Acts 20:17-38, 1 Corinthians 4:15-17, 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4, Philippians 2:6-8)

Love: How can your group show the love of Christ in your group, church, and community this week?