

Letters To Leaders 4

While Elders have a special responsibility to preach the Word and Deacons to shepherd the church, the whole congregation is accountable before God for the church's doctrine, discipline and discipleship.

Congregational _____

- 1. _____ your leaders and _____ to them.
- 2. Make their work a _____ and not a _____.
- 3. _____ and _____ from them.

Congregational _____

- 1. _____ your leaders and give them the _____ of the doubt.
- 2. If they need _____ do it with _____.
- 3. Pray for them _____ and _____.

Congregational _____

- 1. Your Leaders strive with you after spiritual _____ in the fullness of _____.
- 2. Your Leaders speak the truth in love, seeking to _____ and _____ you.
- 3. Your Leaders jealously _____ you by the word of God holding fast to sound _____.

NOTES: _____

Group Questions

1. Read Acts 6:1-7 and Acts 15:1-29. What important principles do these two passages teach you about the elder congregation relationship in the decision making process in the church?
2. Compare 1 Tim 3:2-7 / Titus 1:6-9 & 1 Pet 5:1-3. List the reasons that Elders are qualified to lead and why we should willingly submit to their leadership.
 - a. What does submitting to and obeying your church's leaders look like in real life (Heb. 13:17)? Give some concrete examples.
 - b. Does the command to submit to and obey church leaders mean that they can command us to do whatever they want? Why or why not?
3. Does it seem self-centered or proud to you for one Christian to say to another, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ"? Why or why not?
 - a. Why do you think Paul tells the Corinthians to imitate his conduct, in addition to giving them instructions in writing? Why is imitating others' good examples an important aspect of discipleship?
 - b. Within the life of the church, what are some practical steps which the call to imitate godly examples requires you to take?
4. As a Christian, you have the responsibility—and the joyful opportunity—to set a godly example for others to follow. How should that impact the way you live your day-to-day life? What are some practical steps you can take to personally model godliness for others?
5. Why does Paul require that elders receive specific protection from unsubstantiated accusations?
 - a. What will be the consequence for us if we disobey Paul's charge to judge other elders openly and fairly?
 - b. What are the consequences for the elder council if they are too hasty in restoring an elder or in appointing an unqualified or untested elder?
 - c. What are some concrete ways you can pray for your leadership?