

- ❖ Calling, Heart, Responsibility of leaders – no different from what's expected of Christians in general ... P&E lead, C follows ... Requires a healthy relationship, in which exists trust, respect, service, and unity ... **MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY:** both are accountable to God, both are accountable to each other, and both are accountable among themselves

- ❖ **Accountable to God:**
 - **P&E, lead as God instructs (5:2-3)** ... Flock belongs to God (Ac20:28, Ts1:7) ... He places shepherds to be among His people ... God entrusts His people to leadership of shepherds ... And they lead **as God would have** them (literally: according to God) ... Not for personal praise, profit, power ... Rather because of **genuine concern** to lead and serve others **in Christ** ... **THUNE: *our job is to help people fully and thoroughly believe and apply the gospel amidst the challenges and circumstances of everyday life*** ... When Christ appears, leaders will be called to give an account for how they led (5:4; Hb13:17)
 - **C, follow as God instructs (5:5; Hb13:17; 1Th5:12-13)** ... When Christ appears, Christians will be called to give an account for how they followed ... Resisting to follow a leader God has put among you is not beneficial (assumes they're leading as God instructs) ... Allow P&E to lead you, care for you, teach you, correct you ... By refusing this, you're refusing God and His word

- ❖ **Accountable to each other:**
 - **Be a leader to follow (5:3,5; Hb13:17; 1Th5:12-13)** ... P&E teach their people to believe and apply the gospel by speaking and demonstrating ... **Be examples to the flock by clothing yourselves with humility – Jn13** ... God raises up leaders, calling them to keep watch over the spiritual life of His people ... Not just the ones you like or who are easy; but **every spiritual life** God places in your care ... P&E labor and lead in the Lord ... **Lead (Rm12:8)** in the same manner as your own household ... Implied is a healthy, mutual relationship between leaders and church ... **They lead the people, but they're also among the people**
 - **MERKLE: *the authority of the eldership comes from God and not from the congregation. Although they affirm the elder's calling and authority, theirs is an authority with a divine origin (Ac20:28, Ep4:11)*** ... P&E authority is not absolute; it's entrusted to him by God and His word ... If he goes beyond the Word, he goes beyond the authority ... ***Authority the elders possess is not so much found in the office but in the duties they perform. Elders aren't to be obeyed simply because they're elders. They're to be obeyed because they have the responsibility of shepherding and teaching the congregation*** ... And so ...
 - **Be a congregation to lead (5:5; Hb13:17; 1Th5:12-13)** ... Same call of humility given to entire church towards leaders ... It's a **mutual relationship** ... Doesn't mean everyone always agrees with every decision ... But it does mean, when a decision is made it's supported and followed ... Not because you like it, but **because you trust the leaders** who made it ... **Regard them highly in love** – their faithfulness and obedience to you **warrants** your faithfulness and obedience to them ... No P&E is above accountability ... Neither is any person in the congregation

- ❖ **Accountable among themselves:**
 - **A healthy church is one that takes seriously the call of disciple-making** ... It's **the mission** of every church; therefore, **every Christian** ... **STRAUCH: *The entire congregation is to be a living, functioning body, with each member gifted by God and responsible for the life and work of the local church body. The elders are dependent upon the gifts and skills of others for the overall care of the local church*** ... We all share in the accountability of helping people believe and apply the gospel ... We all share in the accountability of building each other up in Christ ... **We all share in the accountability of fulfilling vision of Grace**