

JESUS LEADS HIS CHURCH

1 Peter 5:1-5

5.13.2018

Jesus
AND HIS CHURCH



1. HOW DOES JESUS LEAD HIS CHURCH TODAY?

1 PETER 5:1-2a 1 So I exhort (*strongly encourage or urge*) the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness (*'witness' in the Acts 1:8 sense*) 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 (*he does not say 'shepherd your flock'*) that is among you (*he does not say 'shepherd the flock of God at large'*), exercising oversight...

- Jesus Leads/Shepherds His Church to this day through under-shepherds who are qualified and confirmed!
- We have a Chief Shepherd (look at verse 4!) and He has entrusted under-shepherds to take care of His flock. In another sense, He is the King and has left His bride in the hands of trusted Men—we are to do exactly what the King says.

Q. What are the responsibilities of the Elders? A. What God says in the Bible.

- Praying and studying Scripture (**Acts 6:4**), Ruling and Leading the church (**1 Tim 5:17**), Managing the church (**1 Tim 3:4-5**), Caring for the people in the church (**1 Pet 5:2-5**), Live exemplary lives (**Heb. 13:7**), Rightly using the authority God has given them (**Acts 20:28**), Teaching the Bible correctly (**Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim 3:2**), Preaching (**1 Tim 5:17**), Praying for the sick (**James 5:13-15**), Teaching sound doctrine and refuting false teachings (**Titus 1:9**), Working hard (**1 Thess. 5:12**), Rightly using money and power (**1 Peter 5:1-3**), Protecting the church from false teachers (**Acts 20:17-31**), Disciplining unrepentant Christians (**Matt. 18:15-17**), Giving account to God for the church (**Heb. 13:17**), Equipping the saints for the work of ministry (**Eph. 4:12**) Developing/Training/Equipping other Elders (**Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim 2:1-2**).

Q. What is the criteria for an Elder? A. Qualified + Confirmed Men (1 Timothy 2 & 3/Titus 1)

- It's not an issue of **CULTURE**, it's an issue of **CREATION** (**1 Tim 2-3**).
- As men are called to Lead in the Home (**Eph. 5**), so men are called to Lead in the local Church (**1 Tim. 2-3**).
- **According to the Bible**, Men aren't better than Women and Women aren't better than Men—we're also not interchangeable. We are given different jobs in the Home/Church for the glory of God.

2. HOW ARE ELDERS TO LEAD JESUS' CHURCH?

ELDERS ARE TO LEAD JESUS' CHURCH **WILLINGLY**

2b not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;

- Paul says in **1 Timothy 3** "Whoever *aspires* to the office of Overseer desires a noble task."
- **No one should be a Elder or pressured** to be in formal Ministry if they don't want to.
- Being an Elder is not a job, **IT'S A CALLING!** In Acts 20 Paul says, "The Holy Spirit has made you Overseers."

ELDERS ARE TO LEAD JESUS' CHURCH **EAGERLY**

2c not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

- **This means at least two things:** Elders should not lead for the shameful gain of **MONEY** or the **PRAISE OF MAN**.
- **1. Elders should not should not lead the Church for the shameful gain of MONEY.**
- **By God's grace, from the beginning of Ekklesia**, your Elders have given regularly, generously, and sacrificially.
- **When Pastors lead FOR the shameful gain of MONEY**, they very easily end up compromising the truth in order to make big givers "happy." **Though this does not mean Elders should not be taken care of financially!**
- **1 Timothy 5:17-18** "Let the Elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching in teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while he treads out the grain.' (**Deut 25:4**) and 'The Laborer deserves his wages.'" (**Leviticus 19:13**)

- **2. Elders should not should not lead the Church for the shameful gain of the *PRAISE OF MAN*.**
- **This is something we as Elders have to battle constantly.** We have to make decisions that may not be popular.
- **When Pastors lead *FOR* the shameful gain of *SELF-PRAISE*,** they very easily end up compromising the truth in order to make their *fans* “happy” so they will get their adoration. Or they’ll care more for fame/notoriety!
- **Proverbs 29:25** “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.”
- **Though this does not mean Elders should not be encouraged** or they should never care what people think!
- **Those men that treat Pastoring like a “*JOB*” instead of a “*CALLING*” are what Jesus calls “*Hired hands*.”**
- **JOHN 10:11-16** 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

ELDERS ARE TO LEAD JESUS’ CHURCH *BY BEING AN EXAMPLE*

- **3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.**
- **So Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1** “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” And the writer of Hebrews says, in **Hebrews 13:7** “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

ELDERS ARE TO LEAD JESUS’ CHURCH *FOR JESUS*

- **4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**
- **In this first century when Athletes would compete for a prize and would be crowned with a wreath of vines/flowers.**
- **Jesus is our rewarder.** Jesus is the one we must strive to please, aim to obey, & desire to hear say, “Well done good & faithful servant.” And Elders who lead Willingly, Eagerly, by Example, & for Jesus have this promise!
- **When an Elder doesn’t truly want to be one,** or is in it for shameful gain, or dominates the flock of God, he’s revealing that He’s not truly in it for Jesus or the good of the flock. He’s revealing that he’s in it for his own glory!

3. A NECESSITY IN FOLLOWING JESUS AS WE SHOULD (Prov. 3:34)

- **1 PETER 5:5** 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders (*Peter especially singles out the younger believers. Why? Probably because they’re typically the most resistant to authority and most prideful*) . Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another (*wear it, we have to put it on*), for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- **We live in a time that self-esteem—which is really just another way to say pride—is praised in theory but honestly despised in practice. The World elevates pride as a VIRTUE, when in reality it’s a VICE! Pride is in direct opposition to our Creator, Sustainer, and Savior!**
- **Q. Why did Satan fall? Pride. Q. Why did Adam and Eve fall? Pride.**
- **A few questions to ask yourself & your Christian peers about whether or not you’re humble:**
 - 1) Am I teachable?
 - 2) How do I respond to correction or rebuke or exhortation?
 - 3) Do I repent quickly and thoroughly and apologize?
 - 4) How considerate am I of others?
 - 5) Do I give and receive service well?
 - 6) Am I constantly aware of God’s grace?
 - 7) How much do I need attention and affirmation from others?
 - 8) Do I trust myself?
- **Heart of the issue: Pride is not only in opposition to God, it is antithetical/incompatible/opposed to the gospel.** The only way pride can exist in our hearts is because we’re at that moment not believing the gospel, not trusting Jesus alone, not living like the gospel is true. How so?
- **2 Cor. 5:21** “God made [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- **You see, the gospel says, first of all, you’re so wicked and sinful Jesus had to die for you.** How could you ever elevate yourself and think you’re so great? Or how could you be so self-concerned or entitled?
- **But at the same time the gospel says “You’re so loved Jesus was willing to die for you.** Why? To take away your sin, to make you righteous before God, to work in you, on you, through you in this life and one day perfect you when He comes back to make all things new. How could we ever be despondent?