

SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S SHEEP

1 Peter 5:1-4

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed...

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Acts 14:23 - ...they...appointed elders...in every church...

1 Thes 5:12 - ...appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction...

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1 Pet 1:11 - ... the Spirit of Christ ... predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

Three important questions answered about church leaders:

I. WHAT IS AN ELDER'S RESPONSIBILITY?

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight...

Or...tend the flock of God...serve as a pastor of the flock of God.

John 21:16 – tend my sheep.

Three important questions answered about church leaders:

I. WHAT IS AN ELDER'S RESPONSIBILITY?

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight...

Acts 20:28 - ... the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God...

1 Pet 2:25 - For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian (Overseer) of your souls.

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

Three marks of godly leadership:

A. *ENTHUSIASM*

2...not under compulsion, but voluntarily...

1 Tim 3:1 - ... if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

Heb 13:17 - ... Let them do this with joy and not with grief...

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

Three marks of godly leadership:

A. *ENTHUSIASM*

2...according to the will of God...

*1 Tim 3:1 - ... if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he **desires** to do.*

Heb 13:17 - ... Let them do this with joy and not with grief...

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

B. INTEGRITY

2...not for sordid gain, but with eagerness...

1 Tim 3:3 - ...free from the love of money.

*Titus 1:7 - For the overseer must be above reproach...not
fond of sordid gain... reproach... not*

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

B. INTEGRITY

2...not for sordid gain, but with eagerness...

1 Tim 5:17–18 - 17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

reproach... not fond of sor

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

C. HUMILITY

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge

Mark 10:42 - ... those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.

2 Cor 1:24 - Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy...

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

C. HUMILITY

3...but proving to be examples to the flock.

1 Pet 2:21 - ...Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps...

1 John 2:6 - ... walk in the same manner as He walked.

II. IN WHAT MANNER SHOULD ELDERS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY?

C. HUMILITY

3...but proving to be examples to the flock.

1 Cor 11:1 - Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

2 Thes 3:7 - For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example...

Heb 13:7 - Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. conduct, imitate

III. WHAT IS THE INCENTIVE FOR ELDERS TO PERSEVERE WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT?

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Heb 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.

conduct, imitate

III. WHAT IS THE INCENTIVE FOR ELDERS TO PERSEVERE WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT?

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

2 Tim 4:8 - ...the crown of righteousness, which the Lord...will award...to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 - ... the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Rev 2:10 - ... the crown of life.