

Love Among Elders

Lecture Outline

Part 1 of 4

I. Introduction

- A. The fall has adversely affected every human relationship.
- B. The fall has adversely affected every church leadership team.
- C. The fall can provide opportunities for personal growth and unity.

II. Building Solid Relationships Among Elders

- A. God has provided the resources for leaders to function in love and unity.
- B. God has given to us all of the resources that we need to live Spirit-led lives as we work and serve together as leaders, in addition to being role models to the flock.
- C. Three foundational passages for building love and unity among elders:
Colossians 3:14, Ephesians 4:1–3, Ephesians 4:31–32

III. Soul Maintenance is Vital to a Leadership Team

- A. A loving leader must be a healthy leader.
- B. Leaders set the tone for the whole congregation.
- C. The health of a leader sets the tone for those he leads.

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Lecture Outline

Part 2 of 4

IV. Love: The Key Ingredient for Elder Relations

- A. The biblical emphasis on love
- B. The church leader's wardrobe
- C. The church leader's model for love
- D. The church leader's mandate for love

V. A Self-Test to Measure an Elder's "Love Factor"

- A. A self-test that you can administer: In 1 Cor. 13:4-7 substitute "an elder" for "love".
- B. So as we work together as church leaders, let's make it our goal to:
Wear the right wardrobe (put on love), Model love, Pursue love

As leaders of God's people, let's bathe everything we do in love.

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Lecture Outline

Part 3 of 4

VI. Check Your Attitude

- A. You have heard the saying that “attitude is everything.” This is especially true as church leaders serve together in the crucible of life.

- B. Right and wrong attitudes

- C. The best attitude: In Philippians 2:5–8, Paul gives us a description of Christ’s servant attitude.

- D. Christ’s attitude.

- E. We who lead the people of God are now called to have this same attitude as we serve.

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Lecture Outline

Part 4 of 4

VII. Practical Suggestions for Building Love and Unity Among Elders

- A. Paul tells the Corinthians: *"Let all that you do be done in love."* (1 Cor. 16:14)

- B. Let me give you a few practical suggestions toward building a more loving and caring environment among the leadership team:

- C. Purposely set aside a regular time for praying and sharing personal needs.

- D. Design and implement a pledge of protection for the leadership body.

- E. Determine to have the hard conversations when needed.

- F. Regularly set goals and evaluate progress as a team.

VIII. Conclusion

- A. We can have a crowded church with countless programs, but it does not guarantee that the leadership team will be healthy and on track spiritually. I want to encourage you to be intentional when it comes to the health of the elder board.

"And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:4)