

Shepherding the Shepherds

Lecture Outline Part 1 of 4

Introduction

"Watch out for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I am gone fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Even from among your own group men will arise, teaching perversions of the truth to draw the disciples away after them. Therefore, be alert"

(Acts 20:28-31 NET Bible).

I. Elders Must Be I_____ Accountable.

- A. The elders' first responsibility is to watch out for t_____.
- B. I think what Paul is saying is that shepherds need shepherding and supervision.
- C. Take caution related to your own number, because people will tend to arise to seek authority and a position for themselves.

II. Elders Must Be Corporately Accountable to F_____ E_____.

- A. Protection comes from maintaining p_____.
- B. How does one man gain a following for himself? By f_____ t_____.
 - 1. The way that men will rise is they will depart from the Scriptures.
 - 2. The way to discern false teaching is to stick to the Scriptures. When they depart from the Scriptures, you have people that will follow.
- C. Don't look at Acts 20 and say that this is h_____.

"Each of you is saying, 'I am with Paul,' or 'I am with Apollos,' or 'I am with Cephas,' or 'I am with Christ'" (1 Cor. 1:12).

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III. Elders Must Be Corporately Accountable to Fellow Elders (cont.).

D. There is an i_____ component!

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Tim. 4:16 ESV).

E. Sometimes, f_____ and f_____ don't match.

IV. Elders are Accountable to the F_____.

A. Here's how I understand it:

1. 1 Timothy 4:16 – “Elders, you have an individual accountability before God, Timothy. You need to keep things straight in your life and your doctrine.” Amen!
2. Acts 20 – “Elders, you need to police your own body. You need to shepherd yourselves in such a way that you do not allow dominance to arise in an unbiblical way that leads to taking the flock astray.”
3. 1 Timothy 5:17–21 – I hear Paul saying, “Elders, you're not only individually accountable to God, you're not only accountable to your fellow elders, you are accountable to the flock.”

B. Elders don't get any a_____ when it comes to discipline.

V. Does Plurality Mean Total E_____?

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VI. I _____ an Accountability System

A. Regular evaluation of e_____ o_____ by the elders.

B. Evaluate based on q_____ required of elders.

C. Use evaluation f_____.

D. Be careful when dividing up a_____ turf.

E. "Friday F_____."

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VII. Sharing the Shepherding Load

- A. As leaders, elders ought to push ministry o_____, rather than collecting it i_____.

- B. Some statistics

- C. Part of the problem is e_____. No one can handle the load!

- D. Elders need to recognize and encourage spiritual g_____.
 - 1. They need to teach it, and to encourage people in their function.

 - 2. They need to “lead from b_____.”

Conclusion