

“Examples To The Flock”

Shepherding The Flock Until The Appearing Of The Chief Shepherd

1 Peter 5:1-11

If anyone could have elevated himself in the Early Church, it was the Apostle Peter. Yet in his Epistle (dated to A.D. 62-63) Peter identifies himself as a ‘fellow elder,’ likely as a peer of the now-established and permanent leadership of the church. His wise and careful words guide those who would serve the Lord as undershepherds. Today we study the Biblical idea of ‘elder’ and ‘deacon’ to discover how these two offices have strengthened the church.

I. The _____ Shepherd gives _____ to shepherd and _____ the flock. (v 2-11)
An elder is to exercise _____ (cf. Titus 1:5,7) for the glory of God by _____, not by raw _____ (consider ‘oversight’ and ‘ruling’). Humility is to characterize elders and _____ is to characterize the _____ as we are together under God’s _____. Resist _____, firm in the faith that _____ glory awaits.

II. The _____ confirm the _____ of the commands re. _____. (v 1)
Moses was to serve ‘as _____ to Pharaoh, with Aaron as his _____ (Ex. 4:16). His _____ gave rise to God’s gracious provision of _____ to “bear the _____ of the people _____” (Nu. 11:16-17). God put his _____ upon them, including _____ men (Nu. 11:26) who were not _____.

III. The _____ authorize a _____ of labor to _____. (Acts 6:1-7)
‘_____’* is used more than _____ times in Scripture. Six _____ are appointed to _____ tables (Acts 6:2), that the Twelve might give attention to the spiritual functions of the Early Church. Once again, God graciously provided because of human _____ a band of _____ to carry the _____.

1. Consider the load this local congregation is called to carry. What part do you play in carrying that load? How can you exercise your gifts as a “model citizen” in Christ’s kingdom?

2. Pray for your elders and deacons as they teach and rule and serve for the glory of the Chief Shepherd. Understand their burdens. Pray for clear communication and team effort.