

# OUR SHEPHERD-KING'S REPRESENTATIVES

1 Peter 5:1-4

I. Elders *visibly* represent King Jesus (v. 2a).

II. Elders *virtuously* represent King Jesus (vv. 2b-3).

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is authority? Is it good or bad? How does the illustration of an orchestra help us to think through these matters?
2. Who does Christ delegate authority to in order to lead in the church?
3. What is the single command in Peter's exhortation that reveals how elders are to use their authority? How does the imagery of shepherd and sheep give us insight into the work of elders?
4. Who is the ultimate Shepherd and Overseer of souls (see 1 Pet. 2:25)? What does this teach us about the calling of elders?
5. Peter sets forth three contrasts to explain how elders should and should not shepherd. Can you remember any of them?
6. How does Peter encourage elders to give themselves to the demanding and difficult work of shepherding?

## QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How would I define authority? How might I help a non-Christian understand that authority is not inherently oppressive?
2. In what ways can authority be abused in the church? How does Peter address such abuses?
3. Do I grasp just how much I need my soul to be shepherded and overseen by Christ and the elders who represent Him?