

I. Don't buy into an unbiblical view of leadership.

- A. The world assumes that there's a war between leaders and those who are led.
- B. This comes from modernism, not the Bible. Works out as:
- C. It doesn't have to be that way.
- D. Decision-making in the Church ...

II. Elders

- A. As your fellow ...
 - i. Elder
 - ii. Witness of the sufferings of Christ
 - iii. Partaker of coming glory
 - iv. The authority of the elders is *apostolic* authority: given by the apostles and their successors (not the church); in submission to the apostles' teachings (the New Testament)
 - a) The authority of elders is derived from the apostles and Jesus (Ephesians 4:8, 11-13)
 - b) Elders are accountable to other elders (Peter is showing that accountability here)
 - c) Submission to the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:14-16)
- B. Two tasks (this is why we need elders)
 - i. Shepherding the flock (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28-31)
 - ii. Exercising oversight
- C. Three contrasts
 - i. Not under compulsion, but willingly (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1; Luke 9:62; 1 Peter 5:2)
 - ii. Not for sordid gain, but eagerly
 - iii. Not lording over the congregation, but becoming examples to the flock
- D. One reason: the unfading reward at the Chief Shepherd's return (Matthew 24:45-51)

III. Non-elders ("younger men" but really everyone else)

- A. What submission does *not* mean
- B. What submission does mean (Hebrews 13:17)
- C. An extra challenge when the elders are younger (1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:15)

IV. Everyone: put on the apron of humble service to one another

- A. Service is the pattern given for leadership in the church.
- B. Service is the path to leadership in the church.
- C. Service is the pattern of the Christian life.
- D. "God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble." (Proverbs 3:34) Not just a way of life but the experience of Jesus Christ, who became humble for your sake.