

Shepherds of the Flock #2

Prepared
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In 1 Peter 5:1- 4, Peter addresses elders

- ¹ The elders who are among you I exhort...
- ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;
- ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock...

He tells the elders

- To shepherd the flock **among them**
 - Elders are limited to overseeing the local church of which they are overseers.
 - They can't (scripturally) oversee the work of another church.
 - The sponsoring church arrangement is an example work done collectively under one eldership.

Question

- Does that mean that churches can't cooperate?
- No, they can, **but not under one eldership!**
- Churches **co-operate concurrently not collectively** when each church does its own work!



To **shepherd** the flock

- Involves ***watching*** after every soul (Heb. 13:17)
 - To watch, they must
 - Take heed to all the flock (Acts 20:28)
 - Feed the flock (Acts 20:28)
 - Protect their flock (Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9-16)



He tells the elders

□ **To serve**

- ***As overseers*** – to see that things are done and done right
- ***Willingly*** – not forced into serving
- ***Eagerly*** – desiring to contribute to the growth of the kingdom

He tells the elders

- To **lead by example; not as lord's**
(Matt. 20:20-28)
 - They lord over the flock by
 - Micromanaging (Acts 6:1-7)
 - Not considering the flock (Acts 20:28)
 - Does lead by example nullify authority?
 - Does it with Jesus? (1 Pet. 2:21)



Our responsibility to the shepherds

- **Submit to them** (1 Pet. 5:5; Heb. 13:7, 17)
- **Honor them** (1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)
- **Be at peace** (1 Thess. 5:13)



We destroy peace by

- ***Gossip and tale bearing*** (1 Pet. 4:15)
- ***Murmuring and grumbling*** (1 Cor. 10:10)
- ***Binding our opinions*** (Rom. 14:13)



Blessings

- **When elders provide the right kind of leadership, the church will be blessed and so will they!**