Shepherds and the Flock

Ken Chapman · 1 Peter 5:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- We can get things about church confused and not remember them exactly as they are.
- The religious world has changed much of what we read about of the work and the organization and even the worship of the church in the New Testament.
- From time to time, it's good for us to go back to the basics.

1 Elders, Shepherds, and Overseers: The Same Work

1 Peter 5:1–3; Acts 20:17; Acts 20:28

- Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers.
- In these three verses in 1 Peter chapter 5, we find the three words that the New Testament uses to describe this work, these men elders, shepherds, and overseers.
- Three terms all used to speak of the same group of men, the same work that they're doing.
- Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his blood.
- The term pastor is never applied to the work of simply preaching the gospel.
- We need to be careful in our language and in our description to use New Testament words and New Testament ways.

2 The Qualifications or Characteristics of These Men

1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9

- It's the evangelists' role to appoint these elders.
- This is really a congregational effort in the idea of appointing these men.
- If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
- A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach.
- We take these God-given characteristics. We apply carefully, very carefully, our human judgment in estimating these men, whether they meet those qualifications.
- What you're going to find more times than not is that Timothy and Titus were told the exact same thing.

3 The Responsibilities of the Shepherds

1 Peter 5:2–3; Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7

- One of their primary responsibilities, before we even get to the flock, is to themselves. They're to take heed to themselves.
- The shepherds will say to the flock, you go that way, I'm going with you.

- The term shepherd means to tend or to feed the flock. Again, to guide the flock.
- They're to protect the flock from wolves, whether they are within or without.
- These shepherds are shepherding the flock, but they're shepherding someone else's sheep.
- Stewardship, which means a responsibility to take care of something that belongs to someone else.

4 The Flock's Responsibility to These Men

1 Timothy 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13; Hebrews 13:17

- We need to be praying for these men, accepting, understanding the responsibility that they have been given.
- Recognize those who labor among you, and who are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.
- If they're to guide and to lead, that part of our responsibility is to follow.
- Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls as those who must give account.
- We can do that by not backbiting and grumbling and complaining.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **If you need to become one of God's lambs, a part of his flock this morning, then why not submit to his will?**

MY NOTES