

CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS

Elders

1 Peter 5:1-5: “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

John 10:1-18: Jesus: “the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls” **1 Peter 2:25**

How much and in what ways should our relationship with Jesus, as sheep, mirror our relationship with our two elders as they keep receiving grace to exemplify 1 Peter 5:1-5?

Acts 20:17-38: Paul the elder

Paul’s side of the relationship:

- Serving the Lord with humility
- Did not shrink from declaring anything that was profitable
- Solemnly testified repentance and faith
- Commends the elders to God and to the world of His grace

Paul did not consider his own life as dear, so that he might finish the course and ministry....to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul’s life and acts of obedience and love exemplifies a ministry received from the Lord Jesus. What stands out to you about how Paul fulfilled his responsibility/call as an elder to the Ephesians? In v.36-38 we see the effect Paul’s life had on these elders.

Any connections to make between Acts 20 and 1 Peter 5:1-5?

Hebrews 13:17, 1 Timothy 5:17-20: Our part: submit, obey, double honor, not receiving accusations!

How far reaching should **Hebrews 13:17** be in my life? When is it the most spiritually healthy and is there a point or points where it becomes unhealthy?

1 Peter 5:5, Ephesians 5:21 – In **Acts 20** we read that Paul served with humility. *If 1 Peter 5:5 is true in our fellowship, what effect does it have overall and all encompassing (meaning its effect on every aspect of our family) and that effect on our church family? Would you agree with the following statement: my submission is an extension of my overall “submission to one another.” I can’t submit to elders properly if I can’t submit to others and if I can’t submit to others I cannot exercise authority effectively (with God’s power behind it) in my own family.*

1 Timothy 5:17-20

- Let elders shepherd with joy and not with grief...*what causes grief/groaning?*
- Consider elders worthy of double honor....*what is double honor?*
- Do not receive an accusation against an elder except...*how does Satan do this?*
- Obey and submit to your leaders

Luke 15:11-32

Two examples that provide us with warnings about a wrong relationship with our elders.

