

"God's Plan for Church Leadership"

November 23, 2025

<u>The Big Idea</u>: God gave His church leaders who are called to live by an even higher <u>standard</u> than other disciples of Jesus. His plan is simple – in the people they lead, leaders always <u>get</u> what they are. Leaders produce what they are displaying to the ones they lead.

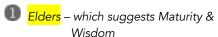
1 Peter 5:1-5 (ESV)

5 So I exhort the <u>elders</u> among you, as a fellow <u>elder</u> and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

²shepherd the <u>flock of</u> <u>God</u> that is among you,

exercising oversight,

THREE WORDS FOR ONE SET OF CHURCH LEADERS:



- Ancient and contemporary societies looked to the elders for wisdom & guidance.
- Synagogues then churches
- Pastors which means Shepherds
 - John 10:11-13
 - Faithful pastors always know it is God's church, not theirs.
 - 3 Things a Shepherd does [Psalm 23]
 Feeds [Titus 1:9]
 Leads [Prov. 20:28]
 Protects [Titus 3:10]

Bishops – which means Overseers

- "episcopos" → to look over
 - Elders are charged with keeping an eye on "the big picture".
 - It also means that they pray, evaluate, plan and lead with a long-view.
 - "We don't really know what we've raised until they're 30."

not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the <u>chief</u>
<u>Shepherd</u> appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVICE

Not because you <mark>have</mark> to – But because you <mark>want</mark> to.

Not for what you can <mark>get</mark> out of it –

But for what you can eagerly <mark>put into</mark> it.

Not so you can tell people what to do – But so you can give them an example

THE REWARDS - PRESENT & FUTURE

- Elders must come to grips with the fact that they will often be misunderstood, second-guessed and unappreciated.
- Peter says, in essence, we're not doing it for immediate reward. One day the Chief Shepherd will come and He will acknowledge His faithful shepherds who served His Church.

TWO CLOSING IMPERATIVES:

- 1. Younger adults, follow the example of your Elders.
- 2. Everyone in the Church wear humility every day. It's never out of style, no matter your age.

Four Ways You Can Pray for Your Elders

- 1. Pray that we will love and stay close to Jesus, Our Shepherd and hear His voice above all others and that we obey that voice.
- 2. Pray that we will lead with spiritual maturity, shepherd faithfully and oversee with wisdom.
- 3. Pray that we will always lead by example, with fear and trembling, because we know "we produce what we are."
- 4. Pray that we live and lead with humility and joy.