

Small Group Study
ONE LIFE CHURCH

Week of March 15
Leadership – Biblical Eldership

A plurality of elders/pastors is a clearly established structure for leadership in the body of Christ. While the structure is important, placing qualified men to lead within that structure is even more important. These men are to walk joyfully in humility as they teach sound doctrine, protect the church against false doctrine, know and shepherd the body of Christ under their care.

Key Scriptures:

- Titus 1:1-10, 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Acts 20:28-32
- 1 Peter 5:1-5
- Hebrews 13:17, Proverbs 27:23

Teaching Highlights:

- God established the model of church leadership which includes a plurality of elders.
- A potential elder must meet the qualifications God has put forth in His Word, and pay attention to himself, even as he is to pay attention to those he leads.
- The elders are to know, lead, feed, care for and protect those God has placed under their care.
- The elders are to humbly submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- God calls believers (members of the church) to submit to the elders as the elders humbly keep watch over their souls.

Discussion Questions:

- What experience have you had in a church with a team of elders? Was it positive or negative? Explain.
- Why is an elder's character and track record so important to leading the church?
- What are some dangers of putting a "recent convert" into the role of an elder?
- Why does the average believer rustle with the idea of "obeying and submitting" to their church leaders? How does this go against our individualistic mindset, even as a member of the body?
- How does "domineering over those in your charge" actually work against what God is desiring for His body?

Prayer Prompts:

- Praise God for modeling submission within the relationship of the Trinity!
- Confess your tendency to resist submitting and obeying church leaders.
- Thank Him for His design for the body, as well His provision and protection of the body through the elders.
- Ask Him to lead, feed, care for and protect the elders of One Life Church, and to raise up mature men who will lead the body of Christ well.