

A panoramic view of a city skyline at dusk, with mountains in the background. The sky is a mix of blue and purple, and the city lights are glowing. The text is overlaid on the image.

GOD'S CHURCH

GOD'S WAY»

TOWARD A VIBRANT CHURCH

»» ELDERS AS HUMBLE SHEPHERDS

Elders as Humble Shepherds

God says his church is to be made up of members who enjoy responsibility for each other.

Elders as humble shepherds – God cares for, teaches, and protects the local church through a plurality of qualified and called men who share these pastoral responsibilities.

Psalm 23 (ESV)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

Psalm 23 (ESV)

⁴ for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

John 10:7-11 (ESV)

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may

John 10:7-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:27-30 (ESV)

²⁷ “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

The local church is the gathering of God's sheep who have been saved, baptized, and now follow their Shepherd's voice.

God cares for, teaches, and protects the local church through a plurality of qualified and called men who share these pastoral responsibilities.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (ESV)

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

1 Peter 5:1-4 (ESV)

³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

“Under God, the final judicatory authority resides not with a pope or a convention, not with a national assembly or a pastor, not with a regional association or a state convention, and not with some committee or board, whether paid or unpaid. Final responsibility for the discipline and doctrine of the congregation, under God, lies not with the deacons or the elders. It lies with the

congregation as a whole...only the congregation is finally accountable to God for the church's actions in discipline and doctrine.” –Mark Dever

“What the church needs in every generation are blood-bought, spirit-anointed, biblically driven leaders who are not mere managers, but who are compelled to apply the timeless truths of Scripture to a constantly changing world in constant rebellion against God.” –Andrew M. Davis

“Christ is the head of the church, and he rules the church through his word and as his Spirit applies the word to the church. So the elder leads the church to listen to its Lord. Christ, not the elder, is the Lord.” -Shawn D. Wright

If you would like to talk to Chuck about the sermon, please feel free to call him, email him or friend him on Facebook.



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