

Expectations of an Elder
Acts 20:28-38

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Small Group Discussion

I. Who and why?

- a. The elders were placed as _____ of the church by the Holy Spirit.
- b. Overseers are to pastor, or _____, the flock by caring for the church.
- c. Jesus has given the church _____ to tend to the flock.

II. How?

- a. **Acts 20:28** - Watch yourselves: You've got to let _____ take care of you _____ you can take care of others.
- b. A leader can only lead if they are being _____.
- c. Elders should serve the flock in three ways:
 - i. In leading - to _____.
 - ii. In feeding – with _____.
 - iii. In protecting - by _____.

III. So, what?

- a. Be _____. **Ephesians 4:11-12**
- b. *“Paul believes so strongly in the unity of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ that he could speak of Christ's death as shedding the _____ who has no body and hence no blood.” - John MacArthur*
- c. The ultimate authority lies in Christ, who is known as the _____, _____, and the _____. (**1 Peter 5:4, Hebrews 13:20, John 10:11**)

1. Look at **Acts 20:29-30**. What reason does Paul give for the elders needing to watch over themselves and the flock? How is this similar to Jesus' warning in **Matthew 7:15**? Is this threat still a concern for the modern church?
2. Read **Acts 20:31-35**. When Paul calls on the elders to watch over the church, he emphasizes they should follow in the path he has outlined in serving the church (**1 Cor 11:1, 2 Thess. 3:7**). In what ways does he encourage the elders to follow? Or what examples did he provide?
3. What are some of the expectations of an elder? In what ways do elders serve and protect the church? **1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9**
4. Elders are expected to watch over themselves and the flock. What is the reason for needing to watch over yourself first? How can you practically do this?
5. Read **John 17:17, Romans 10:17, 1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 2:15, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17**. What is the need behind elders being able to teach from the Word and to be able to communicate the Word of Truth? What role does the Word play in our lives?
6. In the message, it was noted D. A. Carson observed the most extraordinary thing about the biblical qualifications for elders is that they are not all that extraordinary. In what ways do the qualifications of an elder apply to your life? How can this sermon be applied to your own life? **Ephesians 4:11-16**