

JULY 9, 2023

LIVING STONES

POLITY:

THE ROLE OF ELDERS

ACTS 20:17-38

- 1) Elders lead by setting the example of servicing Christ.
(Acts 20:19)

Matthew 20:25–28 ... "But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- 2) Elders proclaim the gospel of Christ.
(Acts 20:20-21)
- 3) Elders teach the whole council of God. (Acts 20:27)
- 4) Elders defend against false doctrine. (Acts 20:29-31)

Titus 1:9 ... "*He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*"

- 5) Elders love the church. (Acts 20: 28, 36-38)

Questions For Lunch

- 1) How do you view the role of pastor/elder in the church?
- 2) The role of pastor/elder in the church is described by Peter as a shepherd. How does the way I relate to pastors/elders reflect this role?
- 3) Though pastors and elders are shepherds, the chief shepherd is Jesus Christ. In what ways do people look at a pastor in the church as the chief shepherd? What are the dangers of this?
- 4) The church is a family with each member being adopted by God as His children and fellow heirs with Jesus Christ. In what ways does our view of church line up with this belief? In what ways does it differ?

Memory Verse for June-July

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

Ephesians 6:12-13

From the Resources

All other interest and satisfaction of the ministry competes itself in this, that year by year the minister sees more deeply how well worthy of infinitely more than he can do for it is the human soul for which he works.

- Phillips Brooks
The Joy of Preaching (Pg. 198)