



Good Different Leadership

1 Peter 5:1-7

Introduction:

- There is a leadership crisis in churches today
- People have been hurt by ungodly behaviors of Christian leaders
- Leaders have been influenced by unbiblical models and examples of leadership
- God calls us to a “Good Different” leadership model that follows the example of Jesus our Good Shepherd and leads to healthier leadership communities and churches

1. Elders (and/or Pastors) are to function as shepherd-leaders

- They should understand their identity and task
So I exhort the elders... shepherd the flock of God... (vv. 1-2)

“Elder” is an appropriate term to designate those called to lead God’s church, and the elder’s function is best described as “shepherding.”

The English word “pastor” derives from the Latin term that means “shepherd.” While the title “pastor” is often used to designate those with paid, full-time ministry roles in churches, both pastors and elders should function as shepherds.

Pastors and Elders are shepherd-leaders who serve God’s people by...

- Leading corporately in God’s vision for his church and individually in steps of faith
- Teaching the Word of God
- Protecting from false teaching and other threat
- Caring for needs through prayer and support
- Restoring the lost and the broken

Comparing Church Leadership Models *inspired and adapted from *The Trellis and the Vine*

	Pastor as CEO	Pastor as service-provider	Pastor as star-performer	Pastor as shepherd-leader
Pastor is	Manager of employees	Servant of loudest voices	The main attraction	Equiper of the team
Pastor’s authority	Total authority	Minimal authority	Authority so long as performing	Humble and shared authority
Sunday is	Managing an event	Serving worship to others	Starring in the big show	Worship and equipping
Care through	Small groups	Pastoral visitation and counseling	Not a priority	Pastors lead the body to care for one another
Relationships	Distant, forced, scripted	Unhealthy and dependent	Coexisting	Fulfilling the “one-anothers” of scripture

People are	Used	Consumers	Entertained	Encouraged, Equipped, Empowered
Pastor is	Controlling and distant	Overworked and tired	Prideful and lonely	Engaged, Fulfilled
Reproduce by	Expanding the brand	Adding more pastors to work	Build bigger facilities	Train and send leaders

- They should know it will be difficult but rewarding
...as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory that is going to be revealed (v. 1)
And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory (v. 4)
- They should remember God's people belong to God
Shepherd the flock of God (v. 2)
- They should know which people they have responsibility for
...that is among you (v. 2)

Forcey Flocks

Out of a desire to grow as shepherds in fulfilling our responsibility to God and his people, our elders have structured the church family into nine different geographical groupings and have appointed a shepherding elder to each. We believe this structure will best enable us to care for one another, disciple one another, and fulfill our mission as a church.

Direction	Central	North	South	East	Southeast	Northeast	Far North	West	Northwest
Primary Area	Fairland	Burtonsville	White Oak	Calverton	Beltsville	Laurel	Columbia	Wheaton	Olney
Elder	Omar Herran	Wayne Lamy	Tom Beam	Josh Haftel	Jae Lee	Greg Staggers	Steve D'Alessio	David Yang	Brent Douglas

2. Shepherd-leaders are servant-leaders

- They are not compelled but are called
...exercising oversight, not under compulsion but willingly as God would have you (v. 2)
- They are not self-serving but are eager to serve others
...not for greedy gain, but eagerly (v. 2)
- They influence not through worldly dominance but through godly example
...not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (v. 3)

3. God's people humbly follow God's leaders

Likewise, you who are younger, be submissive to the elders... (v. 5)

4. God's church is to be characterized by humility

- We humbly lead and follow out of a desire to please the Lord
All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (v. 5)
- We humbly trust the Lord to lift us up in His time
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that he might lift you up in good time (v. 6)
- We humbly rely on God to meet our needs
...casting all your cares upon him, because he cares for you (v. 7)

F O R F U R T H E R R E F L E C T I O N

- Meditate on 1 Peter 5:1-7, Matthew 20:20-28, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Ezekiel 34, John 10
- Read *Lead* by Paul David Tripp, *The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Witmer, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* by John Maxwell, *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders, *Leading with Love* by Alex Strauch
- Read "Biblical Theology and Shepherding" - www.9marks.org/article/biblical-theology-and-shepherding/ Watch "Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church" - www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuKB1-XtWFI&list=PL1qwbCt19EX8-biXVJx88PxsPcTc1DoMP

Q U E S T I O N S F O R R E F L E C T I O N

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Who is a leader who has inspired you and helped you? How?
3. Have you ever been disappointed or disillusioned by leadership within the church or Christian ministries? Explain.
4. Read Isaiah 6:1-3. What might we learn from this passage about what to do in the absence of godly leadership?
5. Read Matthew 20:20-28. What stands out to you in this passage? About the disciples? About Jesus? About servant leadership?
6. We looked at a table of church leadership models. Which of these models have you been affected by? What advantages and disadvantages stand out to you in these models?
7. Read John 10:11-18, 25-30. What leadership principles could be developed and applied from this passage?
8. What does humility look like in a leader? What are some things you might see a humble leaders doing regularly?
9. How can you be a better follower of the leaders in your life? Give one or two specific examples.
10. How can you be a better leader to those who are looking to you for leadership? Give one or two specific examples.
11. Take some time and pray for our pastors and elders along with other leaders in the church.