

Shepherding & Submission 1 Peter 5:1-5

The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.

-John Stott

I. **Shepherding the Flock**

II. Submission in Faith

Into the Bible

The position of elder in the church brings authority with it and the responsibility to exercise that authority well. The model given for that is the idea of shepherding the flock in verse 2. Each of the following verses describes aspects of what it means to shepherd well. How do these apply to the role of elders in the church? (John 10:3, John 10:11, Psalm 23:2-3, Matthew 18:12-13, Isaiah 40:11)

Application

Humility is not something which is natural to most of us if we are honest. We need to put it on like a part of our wardrobe. (Colossians 3:12, Romans 12:3) This applies to what we need to submit to authority willingly, but also what is needed to exercise authority responsibly. What do we risk if we fail in this regard? (James 4:6, Luke 14:11)

For Families

Talk with your children about what the elders do for the church they are a part of.