

Rediscover Church • Week 8 • Who Leads?

1) What are the qualities or characteristics of a good leader? Are there any that are especially important for a church leader (elder, minister, ministry leader, etc.)?

2) Think of an elder or church leader who helped you grow spiritually. What things were said or done that made an impact on you?

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. – Ephesians 4:11-16

3) According to the verses above, what is job of an elder or church leader? Are leaders meant to do all the work of the church? What is the desired result for the church, when leaders use their gifts to equip, empower and lead well?

4) Read 1 Peter 5:2-3 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Which of the qualities and attributes listed here should apply to *all* Christians? Do you see any that are requirements specifically for elders?

5) Do the leader qualifications listed in these verses speak more to the *abilities* or the *character* of a leader? Why do you think that is so?

6) Give examples of how a good shepherd or church leader does the following . . .

Know the sheep / **Lead** the sheep / **Protect** the sheep / **Feed** the sheep

7) In what areas might church members find it especially hard to submit to the leadership and teaching of their elders these days? How important is humility, respect and love in these cases?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for the elders and leaders in our church. What specific thing could you do to encourage one of them this week?

- Pray through the Ephesians 4 passage above. Ask the Lord to grow, mature, and unify our church family as we all participate in the project of building up the body in love.