

## Of Shepherds and Sheep

Hebrews 13:17

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. Forgiven & Transforming Grace (cf. Titus 2:11-3:2)

Paul writes that Christ *gave Himself for us, [in order] that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works*. Notice there are two components of Christ's saving work: *forgiving grace* and *transforming grace*. God saves us from our sin in order that we might live unto righteousness, in order that we might learn to live in a way that glorifies and honors the Lord.

*Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. (Titus 2:15-3:2)*

### II. Dealing with Authority (cf. Heb 13:17)

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

#### A. Those in Authority (1 Peter 5:1-4)

The basic responsibility of officers is to “*watch out for your souls*.” Rulers in the flock are to make sure that the sheep are healthy and protected.

Peter expands this command (1 Pet 5:1-4):

*The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

- *not by compulsion but willingly –*
- *not for dishonest gain but eagerly –*
- *nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock –*

The reason that we are to shepherd the flock of God in this way is because of *the glory set before us*. As we saw last week, this glory is resurrection glory.

## B. Those under Authority

*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

### 1. The Admonitions

- a. *Obey them –*
- b. *Be submissive –*
- c. *Let them do so with joy and not with grief –*

### 2. The Applications

- a. Grow in your love for Jesus and for His Word (Col 1:28-29)

*We preach Christ, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.*

- b. Grow in your love for your wife and your children (Eph 5:25ff; 6:4)

One of the things that husbands and fathers are called to do as the head of the home is to model obedience and submissiveness. Paul calls you to “*obey those who have the rule over you and to be submissive.*”

- c. Grow in your faithfulness to Lord’s Day Worship (Heb 10:24-25)

*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

We are to be faithful to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembly. Few things are more encouraging for a pastor than when you are eager to come to worship. Conversely, few things are more discouraging for a pastor than when you are indifferent to worship.

## III. Conclusion