

Today's Text
1 Peter 3:7



July 2, 2023

LEADING WITH A DELEGATED AUTHORITY

As we have been going through 1 Peter we are seeing that God's instruction is clear, obey the authority that God has put in place. This has caused me to think about the position of pastor or elder in the church. Power-tripping, cult-like leaders are abundant in churches today. While many leaders abuse their own authority, a pastor who understands it correctly can be a great blessing to the church. God's word helps us see that a pastor's authority is a delegated authority. In 1 Peter 5:2 Peter calls the church God's flock. Just two verses later he refers to Christ as the head shepherd. The Bible is clear that the church belongs to Christ. He is the head and He builds it. The pastor then doesn't bear authority, that right belongs to Jesus Christ. Now until Christ returns, the authority in the church has been delegated to faithful men who lead. The delegated authority has the pastor stewarding the house of God as it gets ready for Christ to come again. It's managing something for Him, not for self. This is also why it's important that the pastor be extremely committed to scripture. No pastor has any authority outside the word of God. The opinions of the pastor don't matter. The preferences of the pastor don't matter. The preacher is called to interpret and speak scripture. The preacher needs to view himself as confined by that because it's the scripture that has all the authority. So, submit to the ordinances that God has put in place, He is sovereign. If you are an elder in a church, lead the flock like it belongs to Jesus because it does.

Happy

Fourth of July

Notes

<u>SUN</u> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	<u>MON</u> 6:30 Men's Bible Study	<u>TUES</u> 7:30 Ladies Prayer Meeting (Zoom) (1st & 3rd Tuesday)	<u>WED</u> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Rooted	<u>THURS</u> 10:30 Sr. Bible Study 7:00 20's & 30's Bible Study	<u>FRI</u> 7:00 Bible Study	<u>SAT</u> 5:00 Community Meal (2nd & 3rd of every month)
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