



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 18, 2025

Heart to Heart...

One of the greatest blessings given to the church is that of elders. Men of whom are raised up by God for the betterment of a congregation. Paul reminded the elders of Ephesus that he met with in Miletus to encourage them in their oversight that ***"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*** The Holy Spirit has a direct hand in all this. Elders are men, men beset with weaknesses, but the Lord stands behind them as they have met the characteristics laid out in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. It's wonderful to know such men exist in the Lord's body. Men who have committed their lives to walk with the Lord both in conduct and attitude. For some, they see the eldership like a political office. It's sad when so many take our political landscape and apply that attitude to the Lord's church in the leadership. It's not about popularity, or good businessmen but they are men who have devoted themselves to allowing the Lord to grow them and use their lives for His glory.

One thing that we all must be careful with is that the Lord appointed no one in His church to oversee the overseers. That's not the responsibility of individuals. The Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, will be the One they must give an account to.

There can be some in a congregation who might look at disdain toward these men for some personal reason and find fault with them. That puts that individual's soul in jeopardy. Listen carefully to the voice of the Lord in Hebrews 13:17 – ***"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."*** One who has a bad attitude toward the men the Lord raised up are not joyous people and it will be unprofitable for that individual.

What a blessing it is to be able to add more men who are righteous according to God. It brings great stability to the body of Christ. Pray for these men. Encourage these men and give thanks to God that we found such men among us. I want to encourage the men in this congregation to look at the characteristics mentioned for elders above and start putting those actively to work in your life. Let God grow you. I realize most of you have never been in one of the elder's gatherings but in each one we start with a prayer on behalf of using God's guidance and wisdom for this congregation and end the same. Your present elders are praying men and hold tightly to His word. Think about it!!!

Brent