

Biblical Church Government: Elders as Shepherds (part 1)

- I. WHY ELDER RULE?
- II. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF THE ELDERS?

1) Shepherds are to Protect the Flock

What are the Sheep Protected From?

a. Shepherds Protect the Sheep from the World

b. Shepherds Protect the Sheep from Satan

c. Shepherds Protect the Sheep from Themselves

What are the Sheep Protected By?

a. Shepherds Protect By Teaching the Truth of Scripture

b. Shepherds Protect By Exposing the Error of False Teachers

c. Shepherds Protect By Praying for the Sheep

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions and praying through the issues will help you further meditate upon God's Word in order to see the areas of your life that need change.

1. The very fact that God's people are described as "sheep" throughout Scripture paints for us a picture of our condition. Please use the analogy of "sheep" and describe God's people. What does it convey?

2. Why does the "flock of God" need to be protected? Doesn't He protect His flock? Aren't God's people guaranteed to arrive safely into heaven? If that is the case, then why is protection mentioned again and again in Scripture?

3. In your opinion how should elders "protect the flock?" What are the responsibilities of the elders in protection? What are your expectations?

4. What are some practical steps that you can take so that you will take advantage of the protections the Lord has put at your disposal?

5. In thinking through this idea of 'protection,' when are we most vulnerable as sheep? What circumstances are particularly hazardous that if we are out from under the protection the Lord has provided we have placed ourselves in great peril?

6. What are some additional thoughts and/or application from this morning's lesson? What does this passage teach you about the nature of man and about the nature of God?
