

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# A Healthy Church

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 20:28–38**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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### OVERVIEW

Have you thought about how God has given a leadership structure to most parts of life? Parents, governmental leaders, corporate leadership, etc. God has mediated His rule through specially chosen and qualified leaders—including elders in the church. In these verses in Acts, we see five priorities that God has given to his leadership of the church. But these should be applied to every believer's heart also. So, as we review the following priorities, examine how they should affect your life, heart, and ministry field—at your home or elsewhere: (1) make sure you're right with God; (2) feed and lead the flock; (3) watch and warn the flock; (4) Study and pray; and (5) be free from self-interest. **Faithful Elders will lead people into Christlike behavior by example.**

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### CORROBORATING TEXTS

Romans 13; 1 Peter; Hebrews 13;17; James 3:1; 2 Samuel 11; Psalm 51; Acts 6; Matthew 7:15, 10:16; 1 Timothy 4:1-6; 2 Peter 3:18; Revelation 2; 1 Timothy 1:3,19; 2 Timothy 1:15, 2:17, 3:1-9; 1 Thess. 2:9; 2 Thess. 3:8; Acts 6:4; Acts 1:24, 2:42; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Timothy 5; Philippians 2:5-8

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the church body's responsibility to the leadership of the local church? Why are these steps necessary? What can happen if any or all are mishandled?
2. Considering the biblical model of our own relationship with God, why is the proper alignment of authority and submission between the Pastors/Elders and the church so imperative? What are the dangers to the body if this order is abandoned?
3. Read Psalm 51. In light of David's most recent transgressions, what steps does he take to right himself with God? What happens if one forges ahead in ministry when they are not in a submissive posture before God?
4. While this passage primarily speaks of Elders, All the five priorities of Christian leadership apply to the members of the church body. Can you recognize in your personal ministries where it would be needed to "feed and lead" or "watch and warn"?
5. Committing our church, our Elders, our ministries, or the unsaved over to God is a normal part of the believer's private prayer life. Pray together for our body and our elders.