

Elder Sunday 10-13-2019

The Role of the Elders

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever”

Scott spoke of the role of elders, here is some more from Gods Word

1 Peter 5:2

Be shepherds of Gods flock that is under your care, watching over them-not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve.

We as leadership are eager to serve.

Open elder meeting invitation.

Justice and Compassion

Scott has spoken of “justice” and “compassion” I would like to expand a bit from Gods Word.

Matthew 9:13 “I desire mercy not sacrifice”

Mercy can be defined as “compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power”

Sacrifice; something we give up for our own desires.

(Definitions of mercy expanded) this is repeatedly what our Lord is saying, must be a reason as to fulfilling the great commission.

A little bit about fulfilling our mission (the great one)

I would like to talk about culture: a story from my life WR

Definition's on culture....

So what might Jesus have to say about changing culture and fulfilling the great commission?

Matthew 5:43-48 read

We pray for revival among the believers...Psalm 51:12-13

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

We pray reconciliation to God for the lost...new life...to be born again...

John 14:6 ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Reconciliation to the maker is only through Christ Jesus

Let's look ahead:

The promises of Jesus...the complete Word of God..

What are some of the promises God has made through his Word? Ask for response.

Exodus 14:14 "the Lord will fight for you: you only need to be still"

Isaiah 40:29 **29** He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak

Isaiah 54:17 "no weapon formed against you will prosper"

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"

And the promises go on....and will be kept...

So how can we go forward with this message of hope?
The Word of God says this..

2 Peter 1:3-11 read..

More information on the Role of the Elders:

1) Role of Elders –**Scripture is the same today as it was when it was first written**

a) 1 Peter 5:1-4 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

b) Ephesians 4:11-16 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

2) This is the Elders' and Leadership's prayer for you and our community:

a) Colossians 1:9-14 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,^[e] ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the

Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

3) What is Culture or how do we engage with the culture?

- a) The Latin culture: *colere* refers to agriculture, tilling the ground or growing things; *Colonus*: inhabiting something; *cultre*: honor and worship;
- b) The arts definition: associated with so-called refined taste (can be elitist); you either belong or don't belong to it.
- c) Social Science definition: all humans belong to a culture such as what you eat, what you listen to, what you wear, where you live...
- d) There are elements of truth in all of these definitions. Let's look at the Biblical view. Let's look at culture as the way we live in the world and interpreting things around us. Culture is the stories we tell that express meaning about the world.
- e) **Mission Statement?**
- f) Why do we care about culture?
 - i) Because we have no choice – we're in it.
 - ii) We care about following Jesus – we engage if we care.
 - iii) We care about telling others about Jesus.
 - iv) We care about Jesus.

4) Walnut Ridge Story

5) What does Jesus say about culture?

- a) Matthew 5:43-48 ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor[□] and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Mark 12:28-34 ²⁸One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

²⁹“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’^[a] ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^[a] ³¹The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[a] There is no commandment greater than these.”

³²“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

b) 2 Peter 1: 3-11

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters,^[a] make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

c) 1 Corinthians 12: 31b – 13: 13

And yet I will show you the most excellent way. **13** If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

6) Response (Altar call) James 5: 13-20 ¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half

years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.