

Sermon Reflections

Who's in Charge Around Here? (Selected Scriptures)

Summary: As a church, you are under authority and yet you have some authority. Use your authority faithfully: follow your Elders' leadership, ensure your members' faithfulness, and safeguard the gospel preaching.

1. Submit to the Elders' Teaching and Leadership (1-2 Timothy; Hebrews 13:17)

- From where is the elders' authority to lead derived? What is the extent of the elders' authority?
- What is the singular requirement of an elder that stands out from the other aspects of the Christian life?
- In what ways are we as members of a local congregation called to submit to our elders? What should our posture be?

2. Ensure the Purity of Our People's Faith (Matthew 16, 18)

- What foundational role did Peter have in the church?
- What is the extent of the congregation's authority? What responsibility God has given you?
- What is meant by binding and loosing?
- What are some ways you can take responsibility for your fellow church members?

3. Safeguard the Purity of Our Gospel Preaching (Galatians 1)

- What is it that a church congregation is not allowed to tolerate?
- What is required of the congregation individually in order to actively safeguard the teaching of the local church?
- How might you get yourself ready to be faithful to your calling as a church member?

4. Work Together with Your Elders (Acts 15; 1 Corinthians 5)

- How did the congregation and church leaders work together in Acts 15?
- How did Paul's leadership and the authority of the local church play out in 1 Corinthians 5?
- How does the analogy of the church riding together in a car help us understand our roles and responsibilities?
- From this past Sunday's sermon, is there one significant aspect of church life where you have increased understanding? What is it?