

A Charge to the Elders

Acts 20:28-35 (NIV)

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

I. Take Care of Yourself

Elders must learn the importance of intentionally coming apart, to prevent eventually falling apart.

Mark 6:31 (NIV) “Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, **“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”**

Because the weight of ministry can be extremely demanding at times, Rick Warren said a helpful formula to last in leadership is to:

Divert daily Consider Mark 1:35

Withdraw Weekly Consider Exodus 20:8-11

Abandon Annually Consider Luke 2:41

II. Be Shepherds of the Church

1 Peter 5:1d-4 (NLT) says, “As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ² **Care for the flock** that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—**not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.** ³ Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but **lead them by your own good example.** ⁴ And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.”

As Shepherds, Elders must care for the people who are under our leadership.

As Shepherds, Elders must serve God, and the people, with pure motives.

As Shepherds, Elders must be a good example by treating people well.

1 Peter 5:3a (CEV) says, “Don’t be **bossy** to those people who are in your care, but set an example for them.”

III. Guard The Flock

Elders must **guard** the people from wolves hiding in sheep's clothing.

Acts 20:29 (NLT) says, *"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock"*

Elders must be **watchful** of people within church who are operating in the **wrong** spirit.

Acts 20:30 (NLT) says, *"Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them."*

Elders must **warn** the people of impending danger.

Acts 20:31 (NLT) says, *"So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears."*

Rhema Christian Center

Pastor Tony Ransom

Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21, 2025