

**Select Scriptures**  
*Why Church Members (Sometimes)*  
*Need Biblical Overseers Looking Over Their Shoulder*

INTRO- United in Christ and Scripture we stand, divided we falter and fall.

Why do church members (sometimes) need biblical “overseers” looking over their shoulder?

What’s the difference between biblical oversight (as ordained by God) versus over the top micromanagement?

This AM’s thesis statement is as follows: *Directing the activities of its members* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**1) THE FOUR MAIN PROOF TEXTS**

I)

II)

III)

IV)

2) **THREE KEY TERMS** (the New Testament was originally written in Greek)

I) **πρεσβύτερος** (*presbuteros*) simply means \_\_\_\_\_

II) **ποιμήν** (*poimen*) simply means \_\_\_\_\_

III) **ἐπίσκοπος** (*episkopos*) simply means \_\_\_\_\_

3) **TWO WAYS this Biblical Teaching Ought to Impact the Specific Duties and Priorities of Local Church Elders/Pastors.**

A) *A Local Church "Overseer" Ought to* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(1 Thess. 2:8-12; 1 Tim. 3:4-5)

B) *A Local Church "Overseer" Ought to* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(Heb. 13:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Thess 5:12-13; 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

4) **HOW Biblically Informed Sheep Ought to View Their Local Church Overseers**

(1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17-19)

A) *Humbly Accept* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

B) *Be Grateful for whom the Lord of the Church has* \_\_\_\_\_.

**For Further Reflection/Application:** *We must be doers of God's Word and not merely hearers only*

Review the additional handout you received this morning and identify how this particular sermon fits into the 15-part series on, "How Jesus Runs His Church: the Master's Plan for the Church." Suffice it to say, a preacher can't say everything he wants to say in any message. Single expositions need to be prayerfully considered in view of the larger series. If you miss a week try and catch via our website or through our CD ministry (like we do with our favorite television series).

Satan works overtime trying to divide, distract, and destroy local churches (especially 'healthy' congregations like LCBC). What Satan wanted to do to Job, he also seeks to do with us (the flock of God). Note 1 Peter 5:8f; 2 Cor. 2:11.

Why do you suppose that misunderstandings related to biblical roles and responsibilities of human shepherds and human sheep can lead to (avoidable) relational conflicts in the church? What happens in marriage if a husband and wife don't have a clear understanding of what their biblically defined roles are? It's why we use *The Exemplary Husband* and *the Excellent Wife* in our premarital counseling sessions. All of us are called to do everything we can to preserve the unity of the saints within the church (note Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-14; Galatians 6:1-4; Luke 17:3-4; Romans 12:18).

This summer we've tried to establish a comprehensive shepherdology, a robust sheepology, and a clearly defined ecclesiology (doctrine of the Church). The practical implications have been too many to count. We must remember "to whom much is given, much is required." CARE GROUPS are designed to help us slow down as to more intentionally apply God's Word to our life (at church, home, and in the workplace/classroom).

What's the difference between biblical oversight (as ordained by God) and over the top micromanagement? How much is too much and when is it not enough? KEY- When something gets out of whack, is out of balance, is doctrinally imbalanced- etc. more elder/pastoral oversight is needed. When the right people are serving the right way (as defined in Scripture) in the power of the Spirit less oversight is generally needed. When a ministry is brand new it often requires more attention. Many factors play into this. It's why wisdom is one the greatest gifts from above! King Solomon understood this (1 Kings 3:1-15; James 1:5).

What was this AM's overarching thesis statement? What FOUR MAIN PROOF TEXTS supported this statement? When a bible teacher makes a point (especially a major point) we need to ask him to provide ample Scripturally support. That's what it means to be a faithful Berean.

How can word studies (when properly done) help us to interpret God's Word more accurately and sometimes with greater depth of understanding? What are the practical advantages of this? Note 2 Timothy 2:15. All Christians should strive to be precise theologians! Bad theology leads to errant application.

Three key (Greek) terms highlight one New Testament office. What are those words? All three of these words/functions appear in the same context twice. In Acts 20 and in 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Once one understands the main proof texts and understands what the term "overseer" means they should move onto practical application. How should the elders/pastors of the church apply these principles to their respective ministries? How should the flock of God apply these truths to their lives/situation?

TWO WAYS this Biblical Understanding Ought to Impact the Specific Duties and Priorities of Local Church Elders/Pastors. 1) What are some specific ways that a local church overseer can more effectively

watch over the flock like a loving father cares for his own flesh and blood? Note 1 Thess. 2:8-9, 11-12; 1 Tim. 3:4-5.

**For Further Reflection/Application:** *Putting feet to our faith in His strength!*

2) How can the associate pastors and lay elders help the lead pastor provide God-honoring oversight of the many discipleship and evangelistic ministries that make up LCBC? What's involved in being an effective manager? (administration, communication, planning, meetings, etc) How can the men help Pastor Caleb keep "watch over the souls entrusted to his/their watch care" (Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4)? Discipleship, counseling, hospital visits, phone calls, thinking of you/missing you notes, home hospitality, etc. One man cannot do this mammoth size task alone; note sermon 6 in this series from 6/9/19. Being a faithful elder is much more than simply helping the Senior Pastor make wise decisions. Being a faithful assistant pastor is much more than studying and preaching biblical sermons.

How biblically informed sheep ought to view their local church overseers? Note 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Gal. 6:6.

Be humble and teachable. Be a good follower. If you're involved in children's/nursery ministries, security, deacon roles, youth ministries, music ministries, missions, ladies or men's ministries, Sunday school teaching, or any other function please don't assume that you're doing anything wrong when one of your OVERSEERS comes and takes a peak over your shoulder. That's part of an elder's job description to provide some direction. View Jesus's good and infinitely wise plan as a blessing, rather than a burden!

Finally, be grateful. Rest in the Providence of God; (assuming you have biblically qualified shepherd-leaders. Keep in mind that no pastor/elder has arrived or is perfect). Despise not the Lord's anointed (we're not talking about overlooking ministry disqualifying sins- note the past two weeks sermons on non-negotiable qualifications).

What should you do if someone has become bitter and hyper-critical against the church and/or it's "overseers"? What does God's Word say concerning this matter? (Galatians 6:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:12-14; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5; Gal. 6:6; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:6).

One author highlights "4 types of critical spirits: 1) *the Gossiper*- 1 Tim. 5:13; Prov. 20:19; 2) *the Slanderer*- Prov. 16:28; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 3) *Sinful Judgmentalism*-Matthew 7:1-5; James 2:13; 4) *a Complainer*- James 5:9; Phil. 2:14."

Note the following biblical counseling article on "Overcoming a Critical Spirit."

<https://www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2014/10/16/overcoming-a-critical-spirit/>

Please know that it is a great privilege to pastor such a loving and gracious congregation as this! Your elders and I joyfully echo the sentiment of 1 Thess. 2:19 and Phil. 4:1!

May God help us to embrace our biblically defined roles and to excel still more! List 3-4 ways you can do so this coming quarter/year? What might the Holy Spirit have you change, do, cease doing today?

By way of review: We saw in previous msgs. that the biblical and historical precedent of the Apostles was to appoint qualified overseers over local churches starting in Jerusalem and extending throughout the Roman world. *See sermon 3 from 6/9/19 and sermon 6 preached on 6/30/19*

We later noted that "Pastors and elders are responsible for the leadership of others, under the Lordship of Christ, within the boundaries of God's Word!"

**Related Scripture Passages:** Search the Scriptures to see if this be so.

1 Peter 5:8ff; 2 Cor. 2:11; Acts 20:26-28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7. 1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 20:13-37; Hebrews 13:7, 17. 1 Thess. 2:1-14; 5:12-14; Philippians 4:1.

**Recommended Resources:** “*Visit many good books but, live in the Bible;*” Charles Spurgeon.

<https://www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2014/10/16/overcoming-a-critical-spirit/>

*Basic Bible Interpretation-* Roy B Zuck

*Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible-* by Howard and William Hendricks.

*A Readers Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament-* Sakae Kubo

*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament-*Louw-Nida

*Basics of Biblical Greek-* William Mounce

*Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics-* Danial Wallace (more advanced and technical)

*The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon-* Brown, Driver, and Briggs.

**Related Praise Songs:** *Theology fuels Doxology! We dig deeply in order that we may go high!*

*Rise Up O Men of God-* Hymn

*I Love Thy Church O God-* Hymn

*God Give Us Christian Homes-* Hymn

*O Church of Christ, Invincible-* Matt Boswell

All related sermons can be downloaded for free on our website at [www.lakecountrybible.org](http://www.lakecountrybible.org)

CDs are available *immediately* following the service in the foyer thanks to some wonderful volunteers.