

Eldership

Recognizing and Affirming Elders



Basics of church leadership and eldership

- **There is one head of the church and it is Jesus Christ...**

And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:4

Basics of church leadership and eldership

- **There is one head of the church and it is Jesus Christ, and he sets elders over his church.**

Set in order what remains, and **appoint** elders in every city as I direct you.

Titus 1:5

Basics of church leadership and eldership

- **There is one head of the church and it is Jesus Christ, and he sets elders over his church.**
- **There is one office but three distinct functions:**
 - 1. elder**
 - 2. pastor/shepherd**
 - 3. overseer/bishop.**

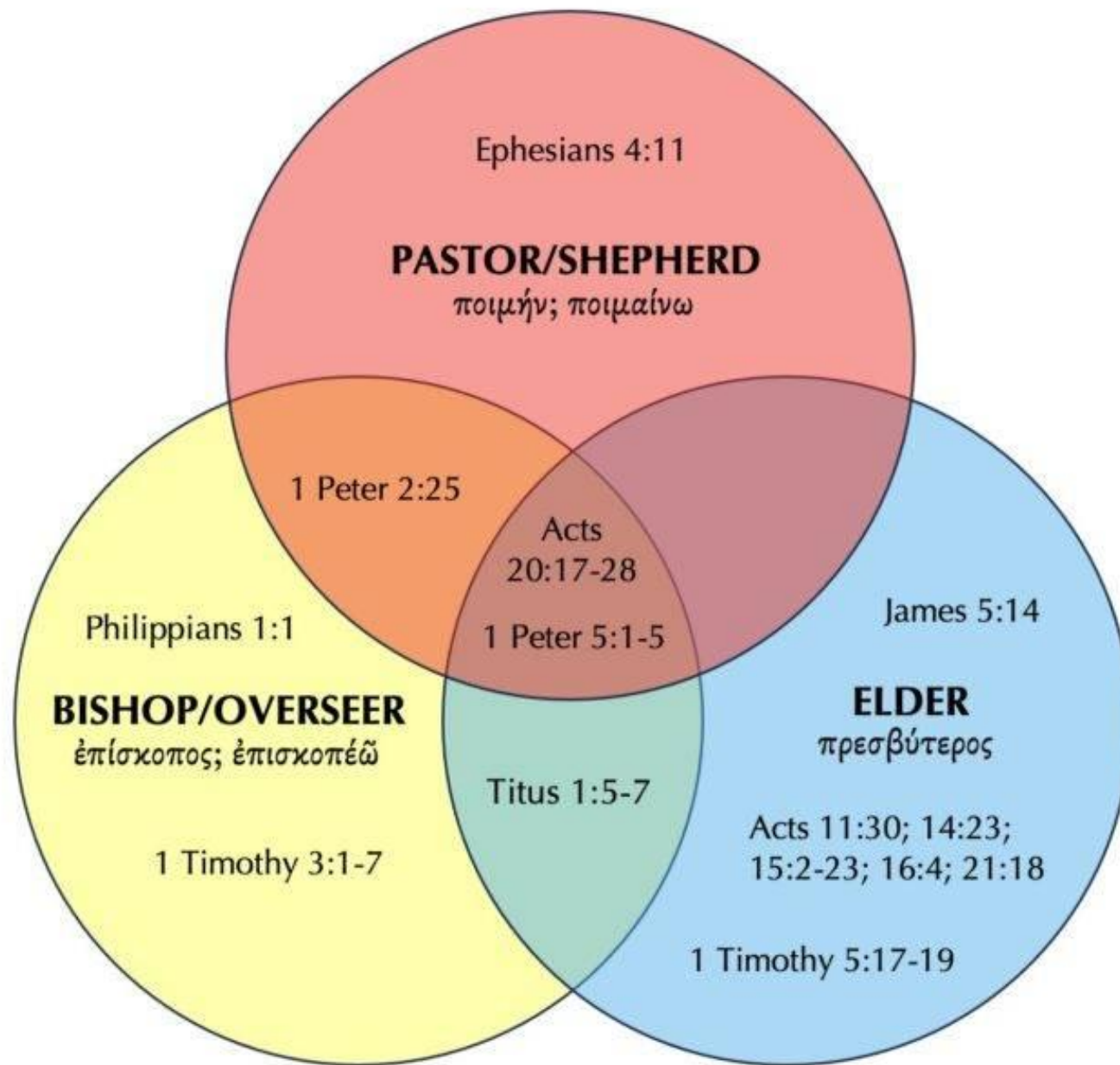
James 5:14, Ephesians 4:11, Philippians 1:1



Elder
(presbyteros)

Bishop / Overseer
(episkopos)

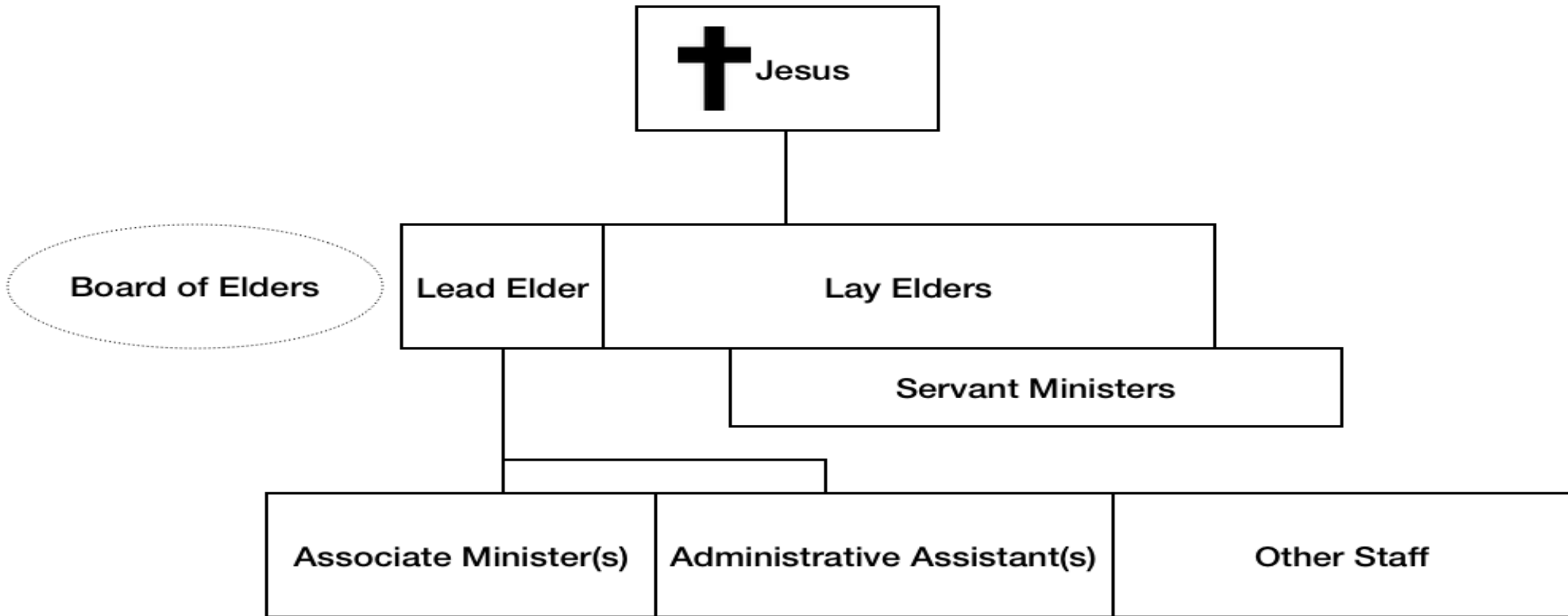
Pastor / Shepherd
(poimén)



Basics of church leadership and eldership

- **There is one head of the church and it is Jesus Christ, and he sets elders over his church.**
- **There is one office (elder) but three distinct functions: elder, pastor/shepherd, overseer/bishop.**
- **God makes elders, it is our responsibility to recognize them and affirm them.**

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone **aspires** to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 1 Timothy 3:1



Recognizing and Affirming Elders

I. Plurality of Shared Leadership

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders (plural) for them in each church (singular) and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. Acts 14:23

Recognizing and Affirming Elders

I. Plurality of Shared Leadership

It is significant that in the New Testament the Holy Spirit never seemed to have led anyone to appoint merely one elder or one bishop in a place. It is always elders (plural) and bishops (plural). JMB

Recognizing and Affirming Elders

I. Plurality of Shared Leadership

A. Plurality is a pattern in Scripture



Recognizing and Affirming Elders

I. Plurality of Shared Leadership

A. Plurality is a pattern in Scripture

B. Purpose for plurality

***Complement/balance**



Recognizing and Affirming Elders

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***Complement/balance**

***Lighten the work load**

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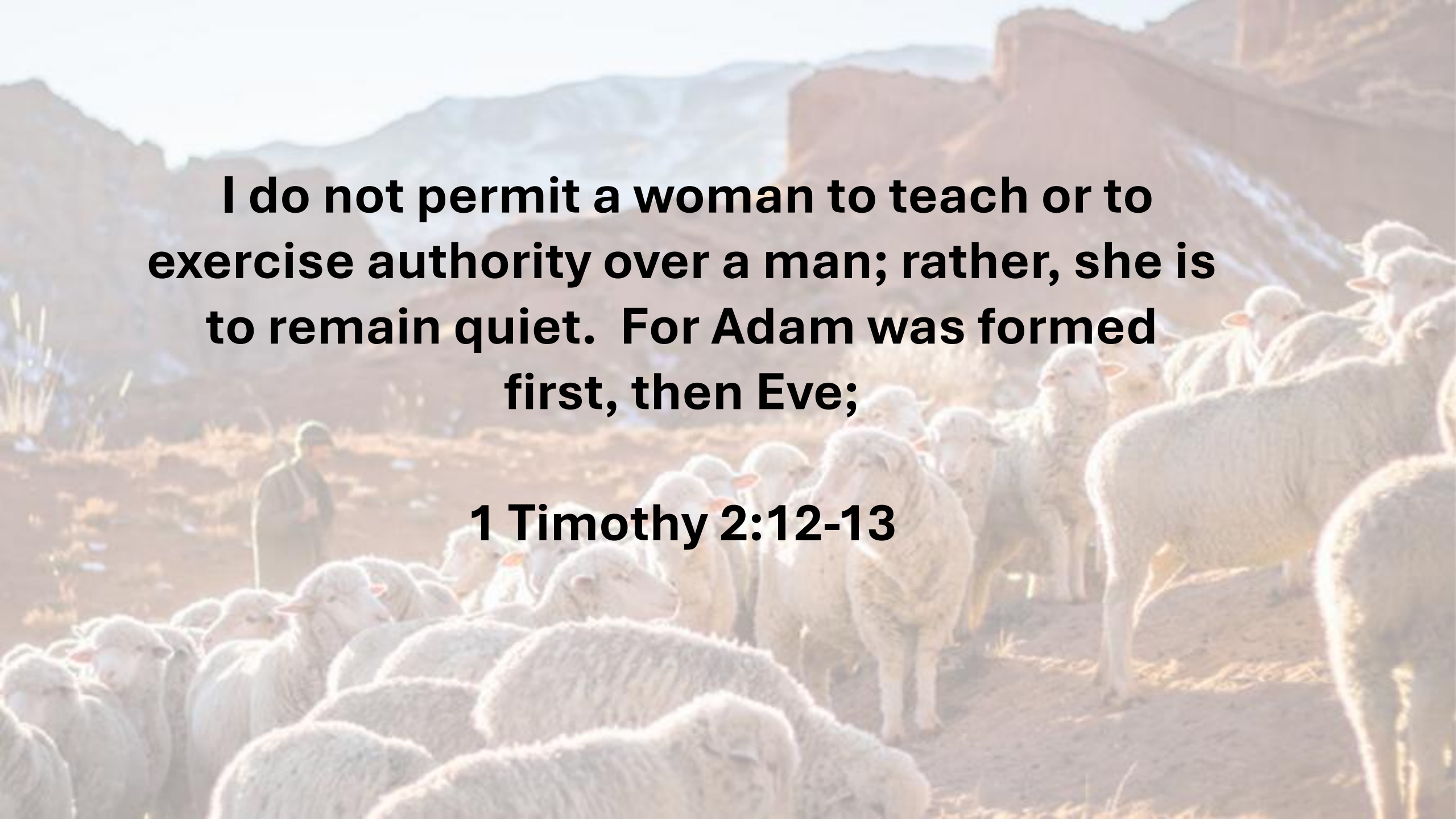
***Lighten the work load**

***Accountability**

Recognizing and Affirming Elders

- I. **Plurality of Shared Leadership**
- II. **Male Leadership (eldership)**

“women can serve in the church in every capacity that a man can with one exception”

A shepherd in a dark jacket and cap stands in a field of sheep, holding a staff. The sheep are white and fluffy, some looking towards the camera. In the background, there are rugged, rocky mountains under a clear sky. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

**I do not permit a woman to teach or to
exercise authority over a man; rather, she is
to remain quiet. For Adam was formed
first, then Eve;**

1 Timothy 2:12-13

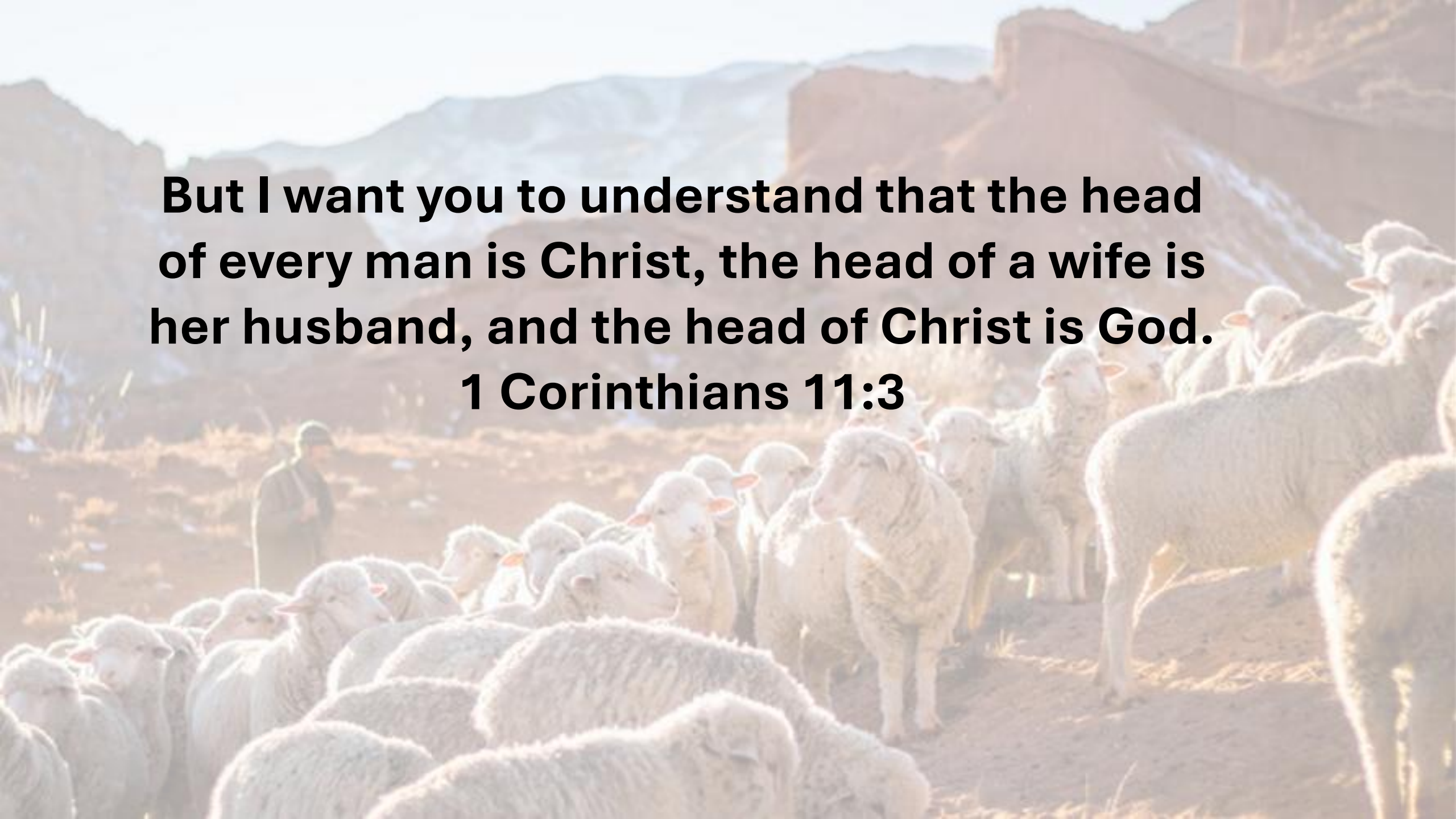
Recognizing and Affirming Elders

I. Plurality of Shared Leadership

II. Male Leadership

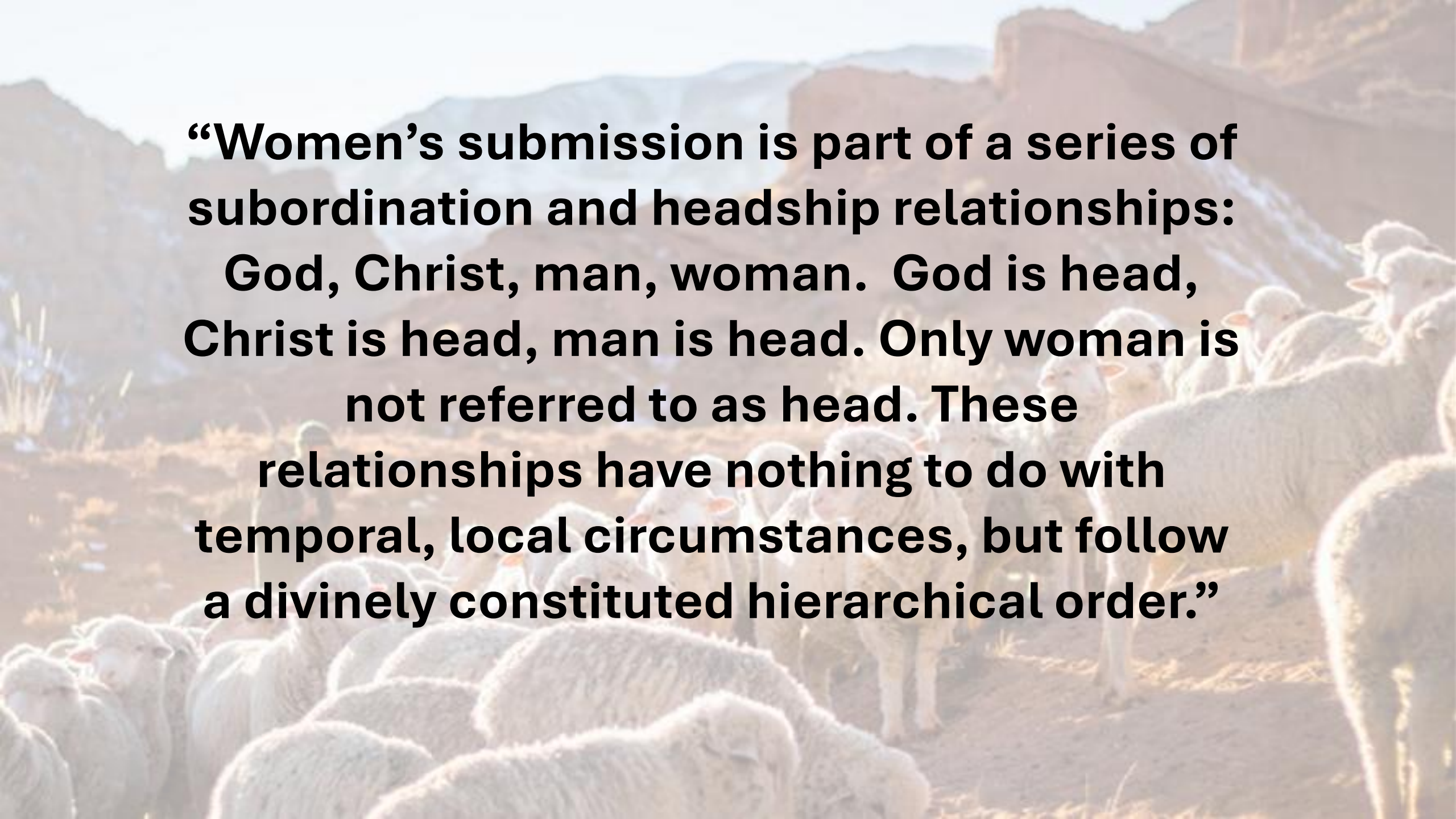
A. Pattern of headship in Scripture



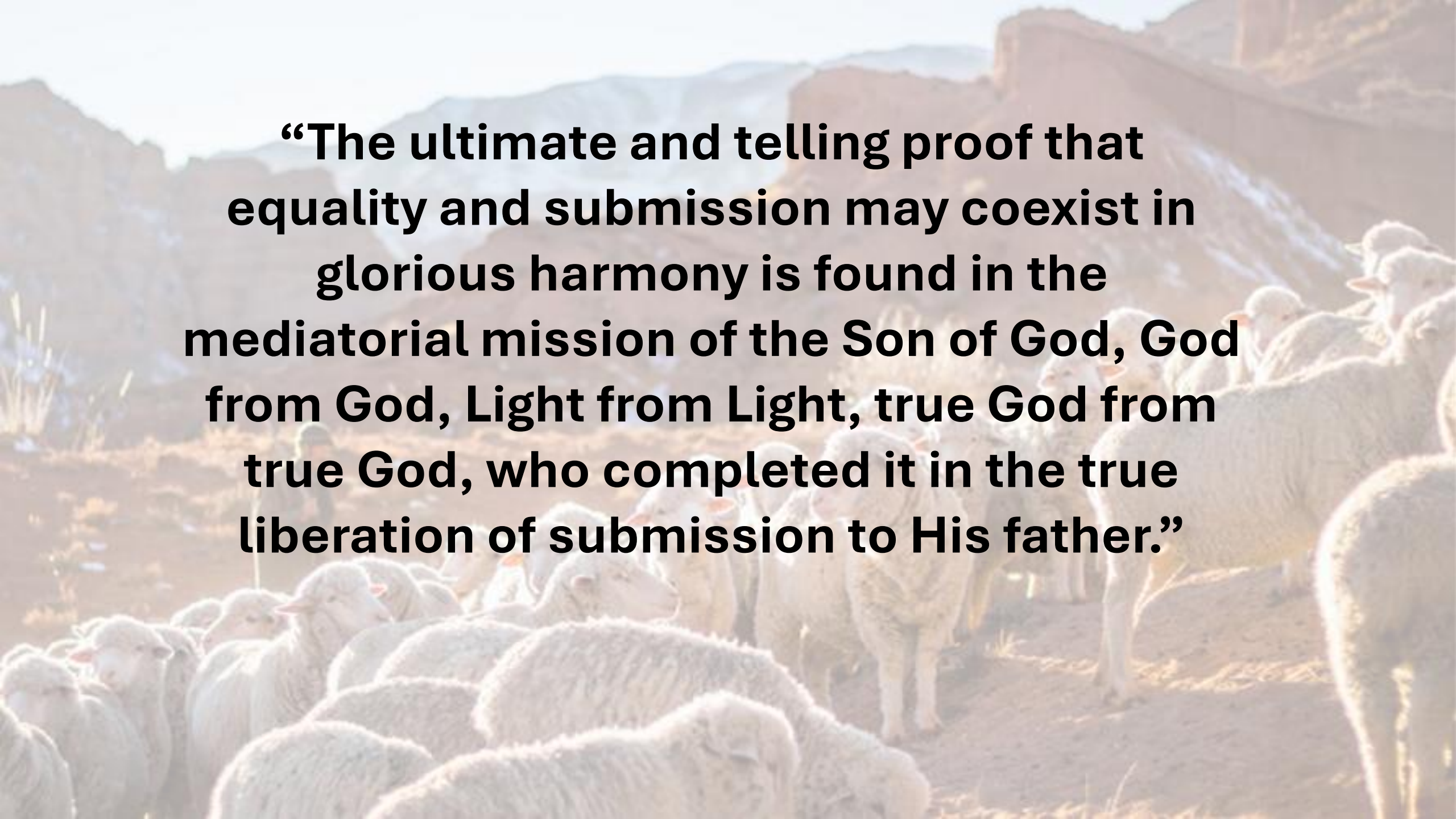
A shepherd in a dark coat and hat stands in a field of sheep, holding a staff. The sheep are white and fluffy, some looking towards the camera. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

**But I want you to understand that the head
of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is
her husband, and the head of Christ is God.**

1 Corinthians 11:3

A photograph of a flock of sheep in a field, with mountains in the background. The sheep are white and woolly, and the mountains are brown and rocky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black font.

“Women’s submission is part of a series of subordination and headship relationships: God, Christ, man, woman. God is head, Christ is head, man is head. Only woman is not referred to as head. These relationships have nothing to do with temporal, local circumstances, but follow a divinely constituted hierarchical order.”

A photograph of a flock of white sheep in a dry, mountainous landscape. The sheep are in the foreground and middle ground, some looking towards the camera. In the background, there are rugged, reddish-brown mountains under a clear sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

“The ultimate and telling proof that equality and submission may coexist in glorious harmony is found in the mediatorial mission of the Son of God, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, who completed it in the true liberation of submission to His father.”

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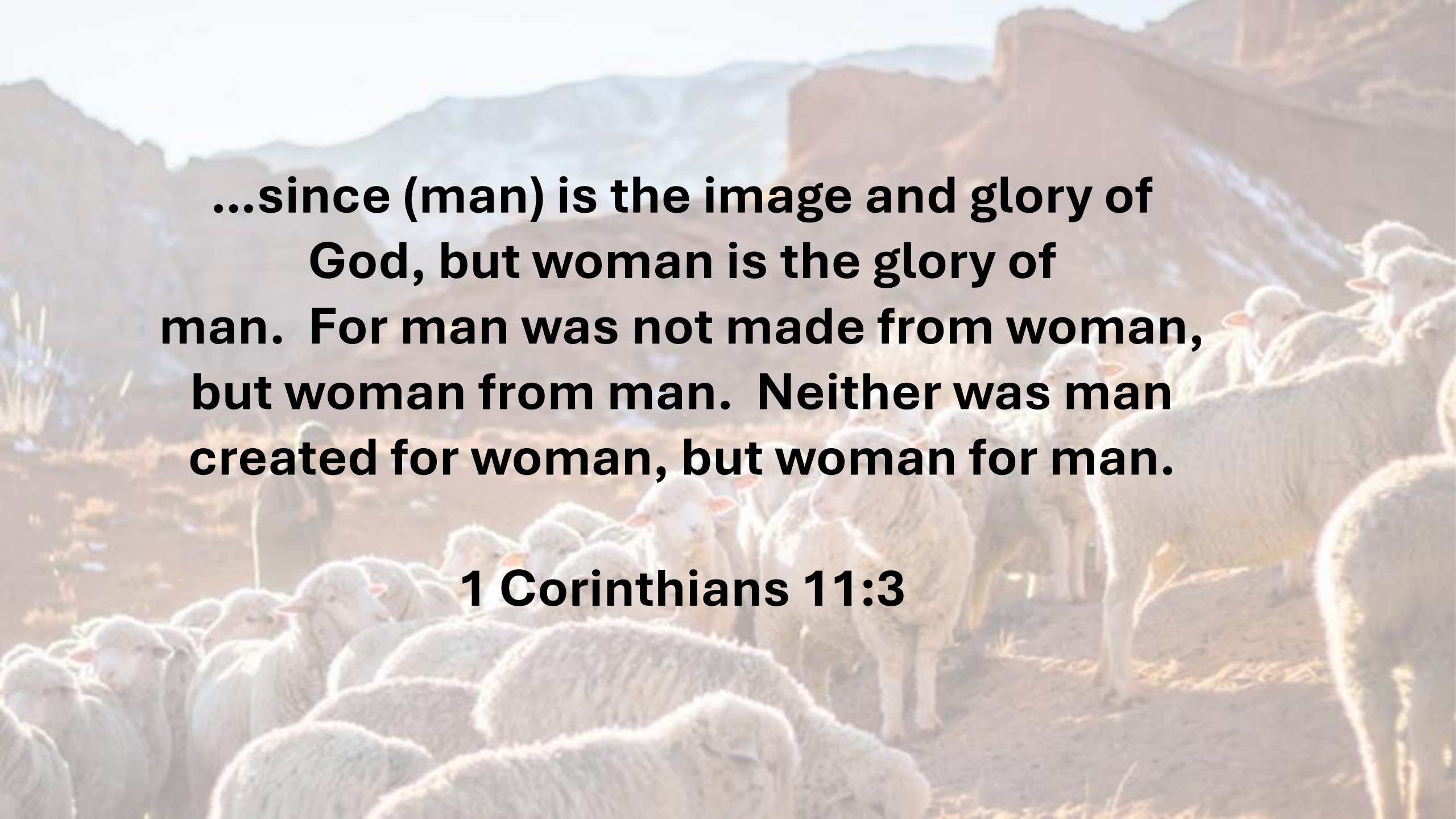
I. Plurality of Shared Leadership

II. Male Leadership

A. Pattern of headship in Scripture

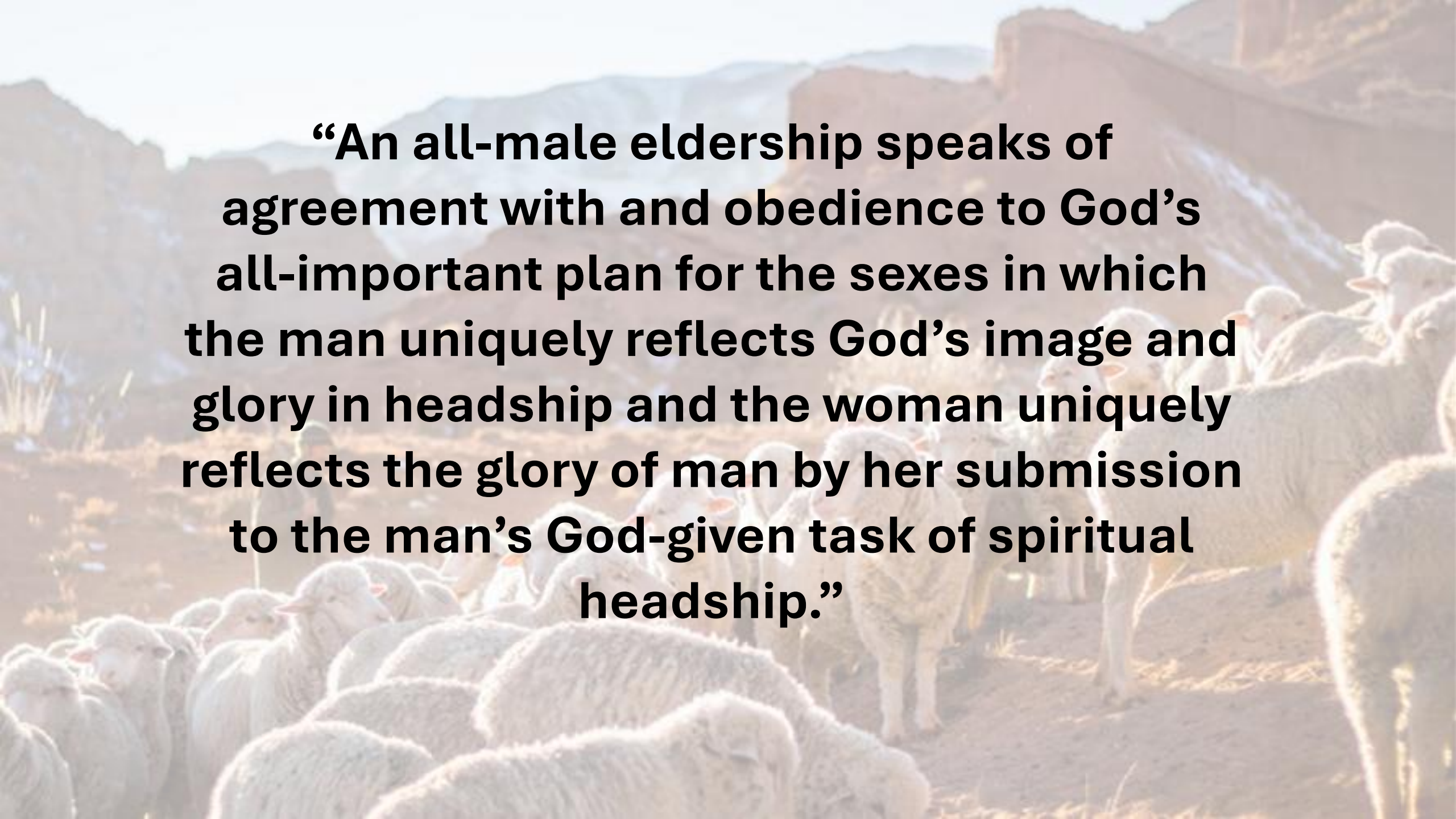
B. Purpose of headship



A photograph of a large flock of white sheep in a dry, hilly landscape. In the background, there are rugged, reddish-brown mountains under a clear sky. The sheep are scattered across the foreground and middle ground, some looking towards the camera. The overall tone is warm and slightly hazy.

**...since (man) is the image and glory of
God, but woman is the glory of
man. For man was not made from woman,
but woman from man. Neither was man
created for woman, but woman for man.**

1 Corinthians 11:3

A photograph of a flock of sheep in a field, with mountains in the background. The sheep are white and woolly, and the mountains are brown and rocky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black font.

“An all-male eldership speaks of agreement with and obedience to God’s all-important plan for the sexes in which the man uniquely reflects God’s image and glory in headship and the woman uniquely reflects the glory of man by her submission to the man’s God-given task of spiritual headship.”

Recognizing and Affirming Elders

- I. Plurality of Shared Leadership**
- II. Male Leadership**
- III. Qualified Leadership**

Therefore an overseer must be **above reproach**—1 Tim. 3

1. Above reproach
2. One-woman man
3. Temperate
4. Prudent
5. Respectable
6. Hospitable
7. Able to teach
8. Not addicted to wine
9. Not pugnacious
10. Gentle

Qualifications

11. Uncontentious
12. Free from the love of money
13. Manages his home well
14. Not a new convert
15. Good rep outside the church
16. Children who believe
17. Not self willed
18. Holds fast the faithful word
19. Serves not under compulsion
20. Serves not for sordid gain, nor lording it

Pugnacious

A pugnacious man is a fighter, a bad-tempered, irritable, out of control individual. The Greek word is derived from the verb “to strike” and suggests a violent person who is prone to physical assault on others.

“Elders must handle highly emotional interpersonal conflicts a deeply felt doctrinal disagreements between believers. Elders are often at the center of very tense situations, so a bad-tempered, pugnacious person is not going to solve issues and problems. He will, in fact, create worse explosions. Because a pugnacious man will treat the sheep roughly and even hurt them, he cannot be one of Christ’s undershepherds.”

Gentle

This is one of the most attractive and needed virtues required of an elder. No English word adequately conveys the fullness of the word's beauty and richness. *Forbearance, kind, gentle, magnanimous, equitable and gracious* all help capture the full range of its meaning. **Forbearance** comes from God and is a chief source of peace and healing among His people.

The gentle man stands in contrast to the pugnacious man. A gentle man exhibits a willingness to yield and patiently makes allowances for the weakness and ignorance of the fallen human condition. One who refuses to retaliate in kind for wrongs done by others and does not insist upon the letter of the law or his personal rights.

Recognizing and Affirming Elders

- I. Plurality of Shared Leadership**
- II. Male Leadership**
- III. Qualified Leadership**
- IV. Servant Leadership**

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet—John 13:14



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God makes elders, it is our responsibility to recognize them and affirm them.

From pugnacious to gentle...



Recognizing and Affirming Elders

- 1. Identify men who are serving and ministering well**
- 2. Observe the pastoral nature of the man's ministry**
- 3. Evaluate the man's calling**
- 4. Evaluate the man's qualification**
- 5. Evaluate the man's identification with Bayview's distinctives**
- 6. Invite the man to observe eldership**
- 7. Affirm the man's eldership**