



Acts: The Birth of the Church in the World - Week 13: A Final Goodbye: Acts 20: 17-38

Discussion Questions for October 4th, 2026

1. (IceBreaker) Paul really seems to have bonded with the Ephesian elders. Have you ever experienced a strong bond within a group like that (i.e. sports team, college friends, ministry team)? How did it get to be such a strong bond?
2. **Point #1: Elders Lead God's Church With Their...Presence.** How much should elders be present and involved in church ministries? How would you notice if it got to be too much or too little?
3. **Point #2: Elders Lead God's Church With Their...Proclamation.** Paul says he proclaimed "the whole will of God." Why might a preaching elder be tempted to talk about less than the whole will of God? Give an example of how that could play out, whether on purpose or unintentionally.
4. Read verses 22 and 23. Who is mentioned a couple of times? How is He helping Paul? Does He help you in the same or similar way?
5. **Point #3: Elders Lead God's Church With Their...Protection.** Pastor Shaen talked about weird doctrines, strange teachings, or twisted truths. How does an elder know how to recognize them? How would you recognize them yourself?
6. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 for a list of elder qualifications. All Christians would benefit from exhibiting these same traits. Think of one trait you feel is evident in your life, and one trait you need to work on. Share with the group if appropriate.
7. Pray that our elders will continue to shepherd First Church of God with wisdom and love according to the instructions Paul gave. May the church respect and support the elders as they live out the commission of God in their lives.

