

Healthy Leadership

Functions, Qualifications, and Motivations

1 Peter 5:1-4

A church must have an understanding of the functions, qualifications, and motivations of elders if it is going to have healthy leadership.

1. Functions of an elder.
 - a. Elders _____ God's flock.
 - b. Elders _____ **a** flock.
2. Qualifications of an elder.
 - a. Elders serve out of _____ not _____.
 - b. Elders serve _____ not _____.
 - c. Elders lead by _____ not by _____.
3. Motivations of an elder.
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.

A painting of a shepherd with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a dark sash, leading a large flock of sheep. The shepherd is seen from behind, holding a long, curved staff. The sheep are packed closely together, filling the foreground and middle ground. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape under a bright sky. The overall style is that of a classical or religious painting.

First Peter

To God's Chosen Ones

Healthy Leadership

Functions, Qualifications, and Motivations

1 Peter 5:1-4





1 Peter 5:1-2

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;



1 Peter 5:2-4

...and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.

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

Big Idea:

A church must have an understanding of the functions, qualifications, and motivations of elders if it is going to have healthy leadership.

Healthy Leadership

Functions of an elder.



Terms

1 Peter 5:1-2

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;

Presbyteros = Elder/Older

1 Peter 5:1-2

elders

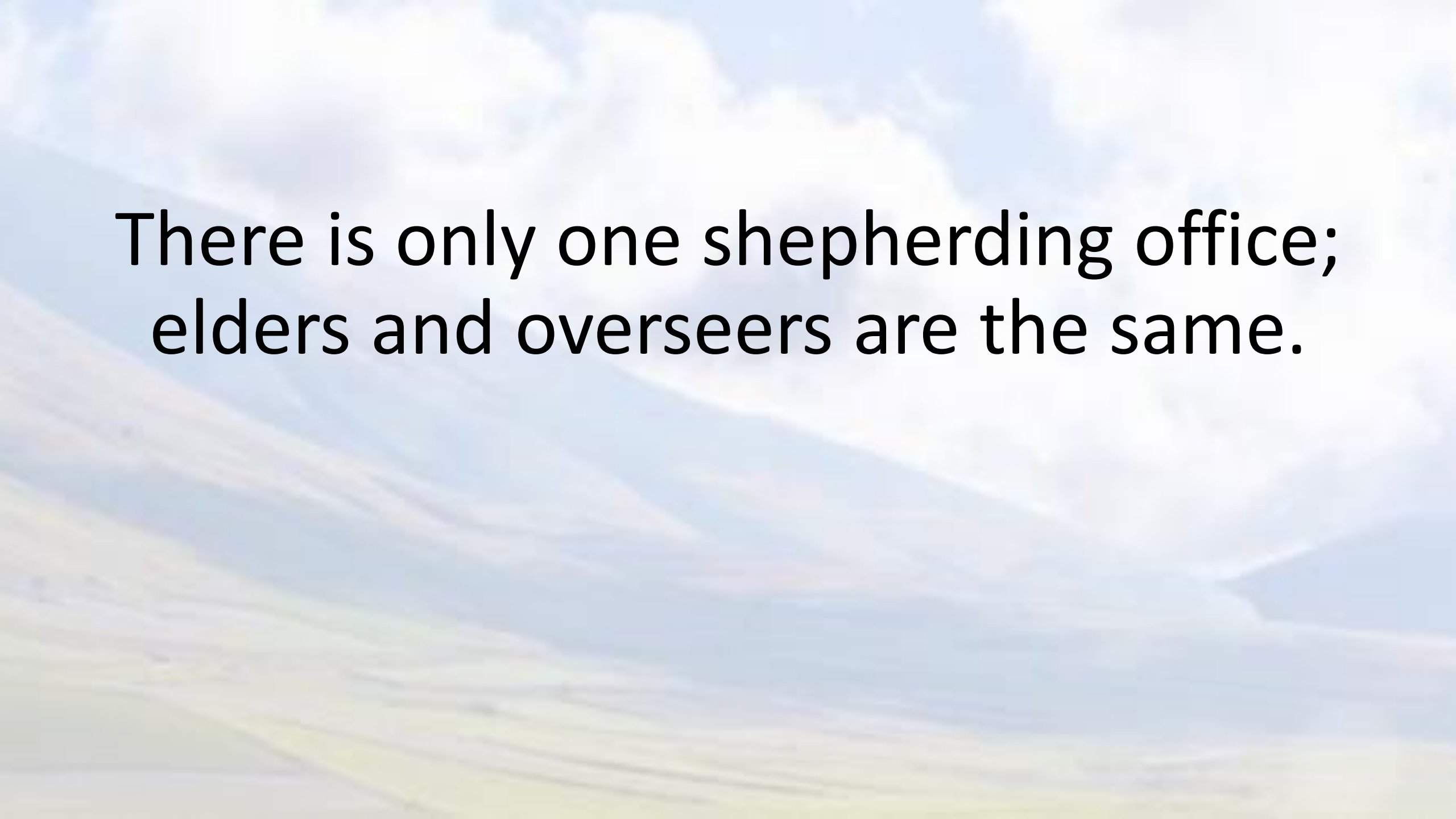
Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you,
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;

Episkopos = Overseer (Bishop)

1 Peter 5:1-2

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
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but voluntarily, according to the will of God;



There is only one shepherding office;
elders and overseers are the same.

Elders are Overseers

Titus 1:5 and 7

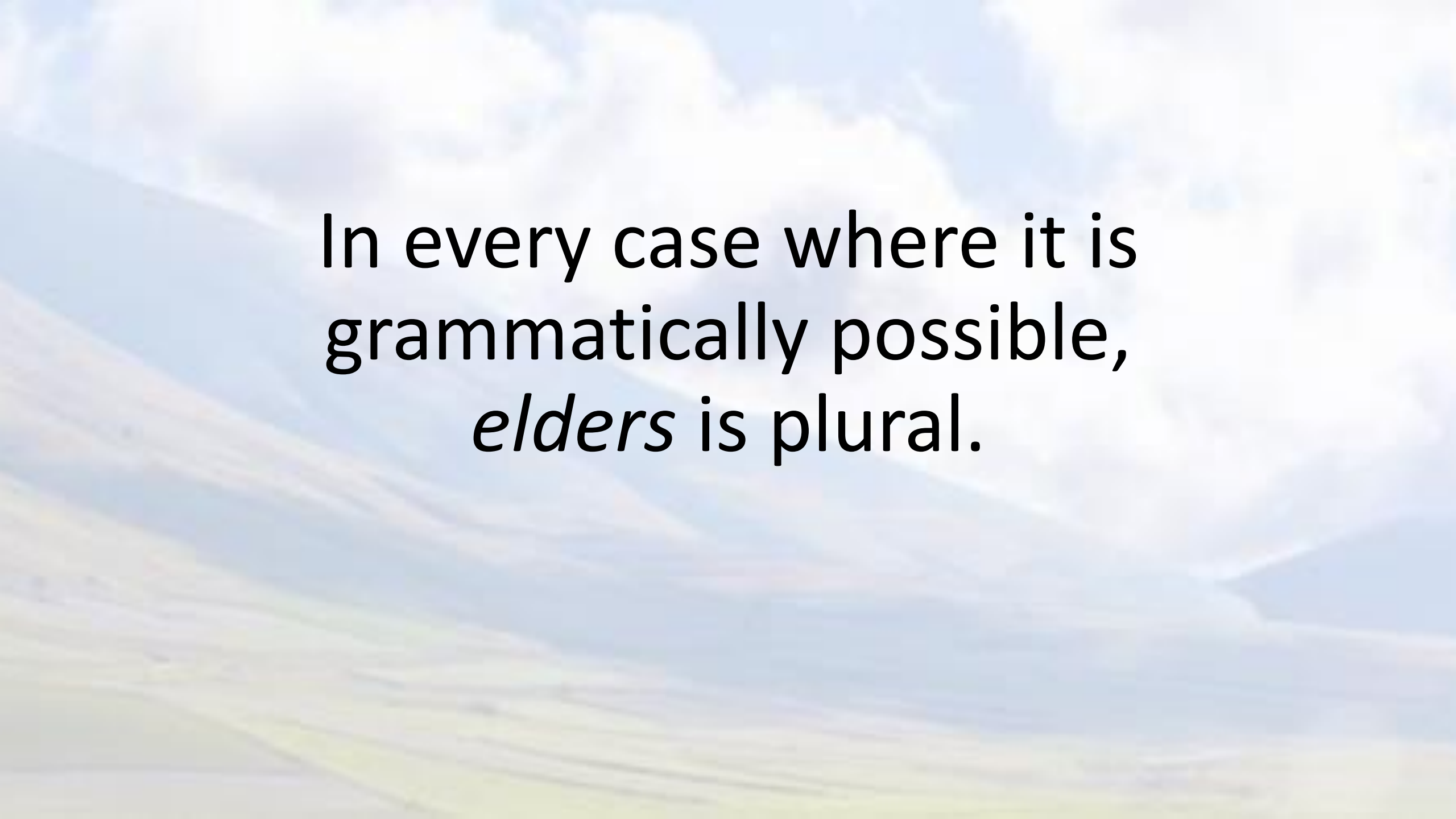
For this reason I left you in Crete,
that you might set in order what remains,
and **appoint elders** in every city as I directed you...
...**for the overseer** must be above reproach...

Plurality

1 Peter 5:1-2

Therefore, **I exhort the elders among you,**

as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you.



In every case where it is
grammatically possible,
elders is plural.

Examples

Acts 14:23

When they had appointed **elders** for them in every church...

Acts 20:17

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus
and called to him the **elders** of the church.

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the **elders** of the church.

Functions of an Elder

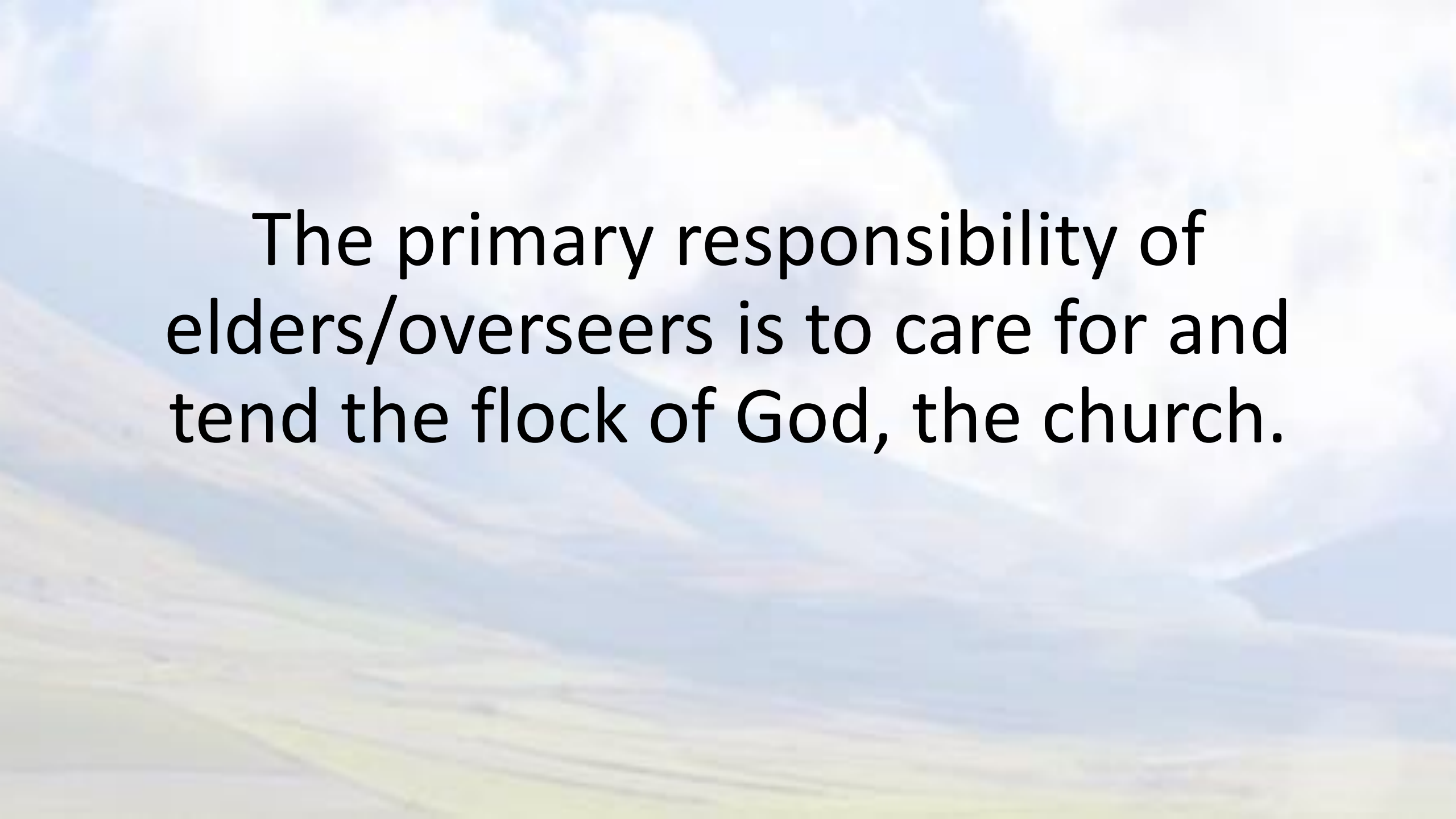
Elders shepherd God's flock.



1 Peter 5:1-2

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

shepherd the flock of God among you.



The primary responsibility of elders/overseers is to care for and tend the flock of God, the church.



Sham Shepherds:

Ezekiel 34:1-10

The Good Shepherd:

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Functions of an Elder

Elders shepherd God's flock.

Elders oversee a flock.

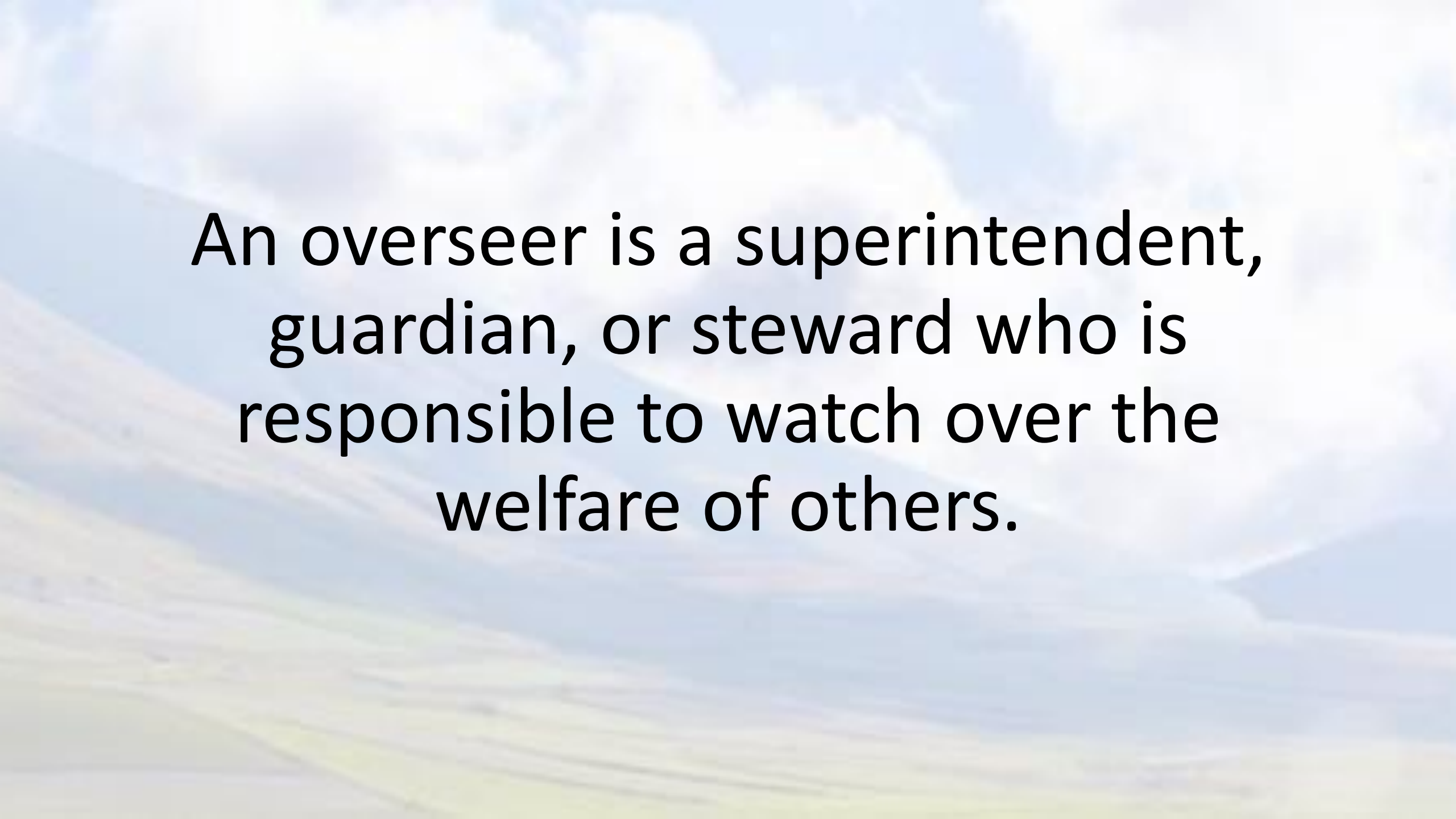


1 Peter 5:2-3

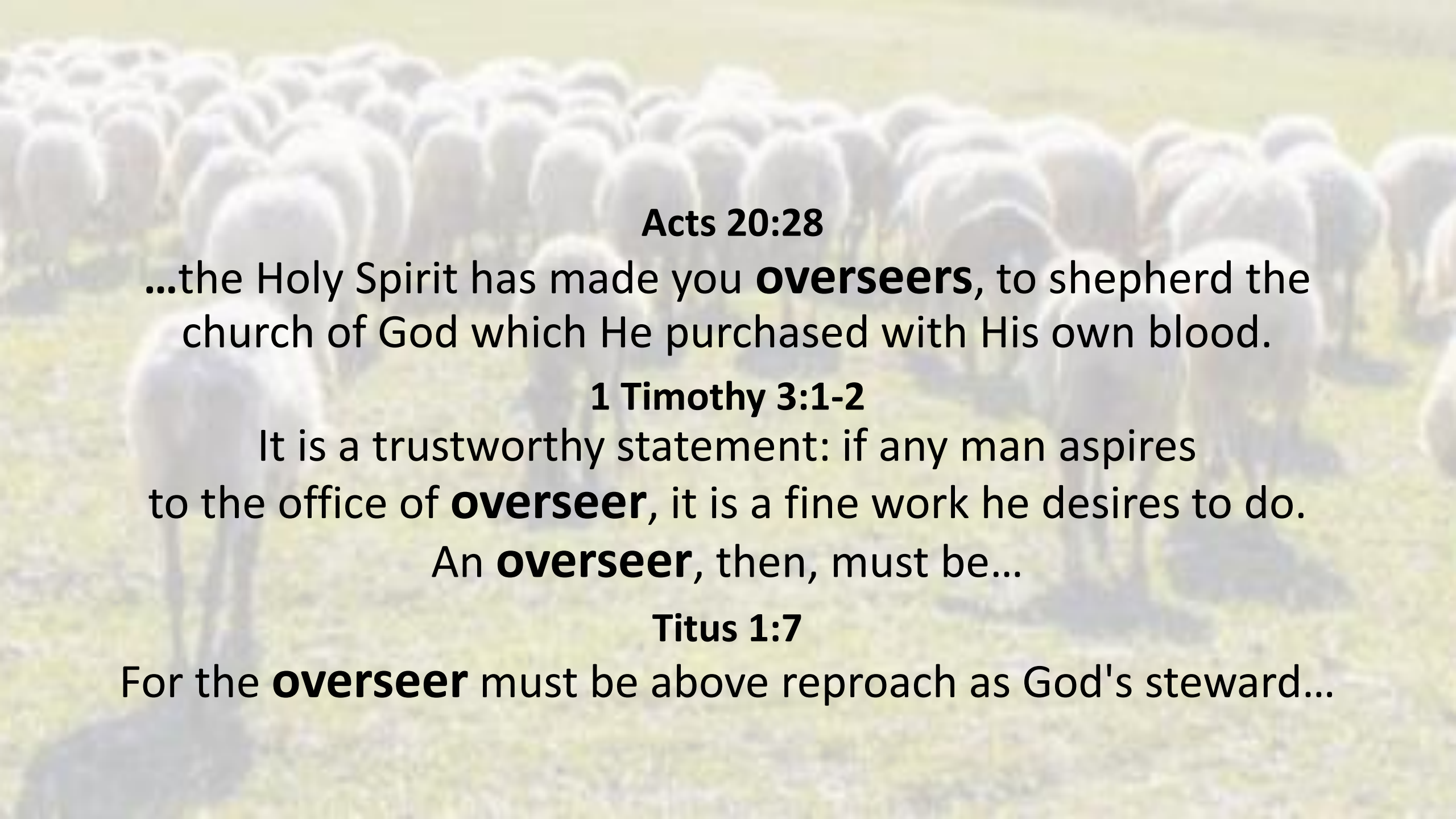
Shepherd the flock of God among you,

exercising oversight not under compulsion,

but voluntarily, according to the will of God;
and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.



An overseer is a superintendent, guardian, or steward who is responsible to watch over the welfare of others.



Acts 20:28

...the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

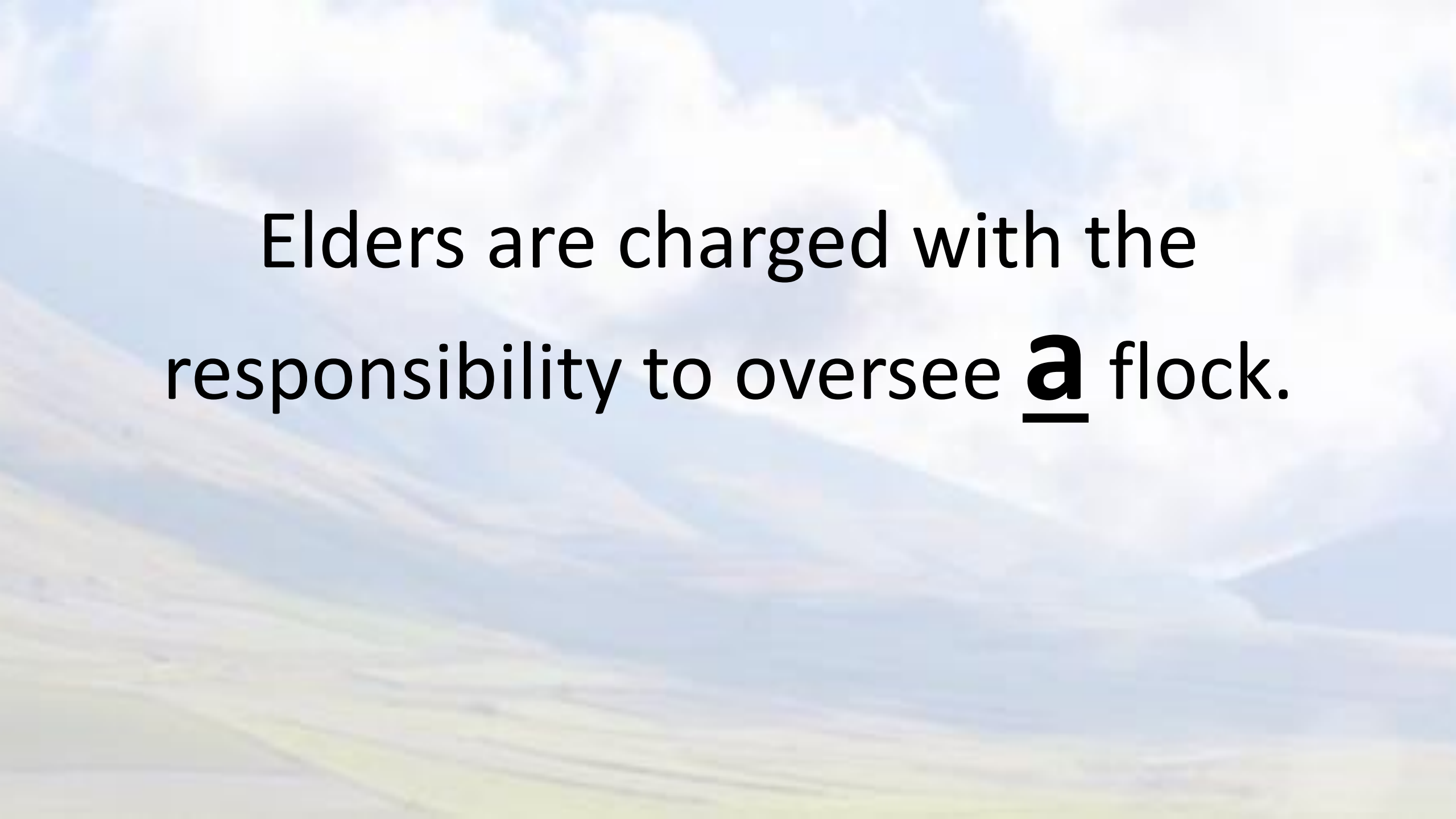
1 Timothy 3:1-2

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of **overseer**, it is a fine work he desires to do.

An **overseer**, then, must be...

Titus 1:7

For the **overseer** must be above reproach as God's steward...



Elders are charged with the
responsibility to oversee **a** flock.



1 Peter 5:2-3

Shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;
and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

nor yet as lording it **over those allotted,**
but proving to be examples to the flock.

Implication

If elders are to oversee an allotment, there must be a way to identify those who are allotted.

Healthy Leadership

Functions of an elder.

Qualifications of an elder.



Qualifications of an Elder

*Elders serve out of willingness
not obligation.*

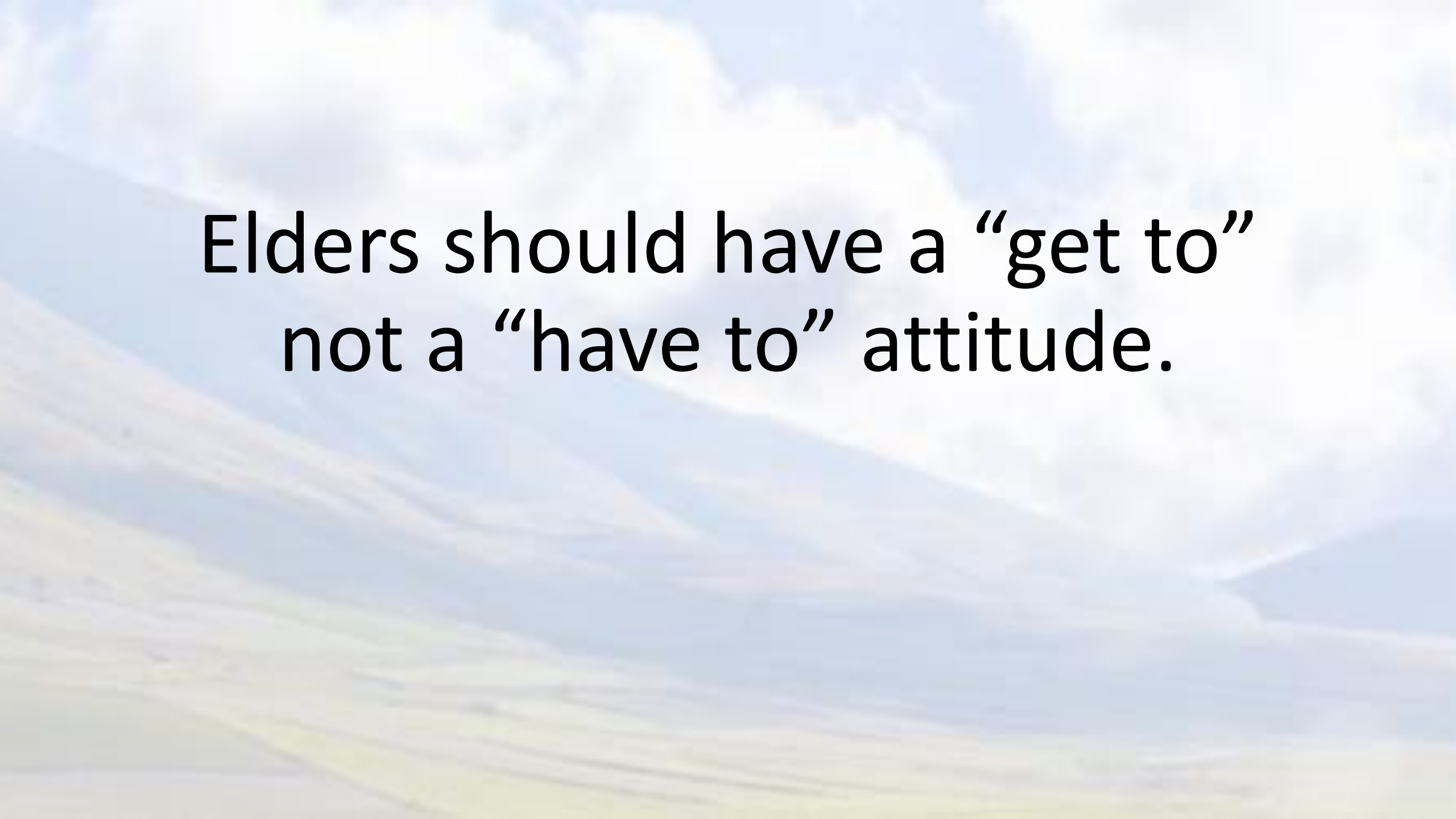
Not out of obligation

1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...
shepherd the flock of God among you,

exercising oversight **not under compulsion,**

but willingly, according to the will of God;
and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.



Elders should have a “get to”
not a “have to” attitude.

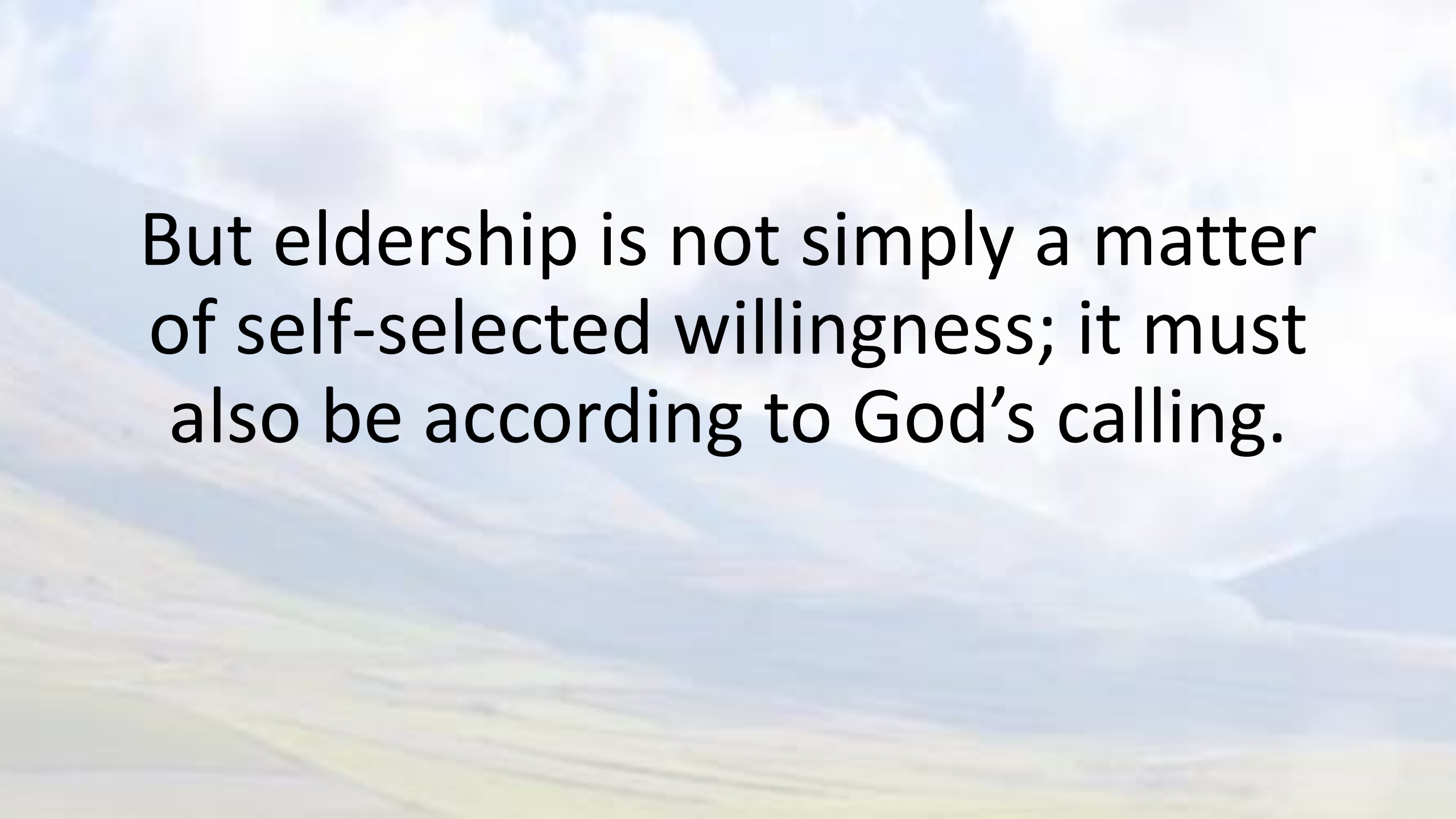
But out of willingness

1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,

but willingly, according to the will of God;

and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.



But eldership is not simply a matter of self-selected willingness; it must also be according to God's calling.

According to God's Calling

1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,

but willingly, **according to** the will of **God**;

and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.

Qualifications of an Elder

Elders serve out of willingness not obligation

Elders serve eagerly not greedily.

Not greedily

1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;

and **not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness;

nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.

The “gains” someone may seek from leadership are not only monetary.

A great risk of leadership is the temptation to “gain” an identity.

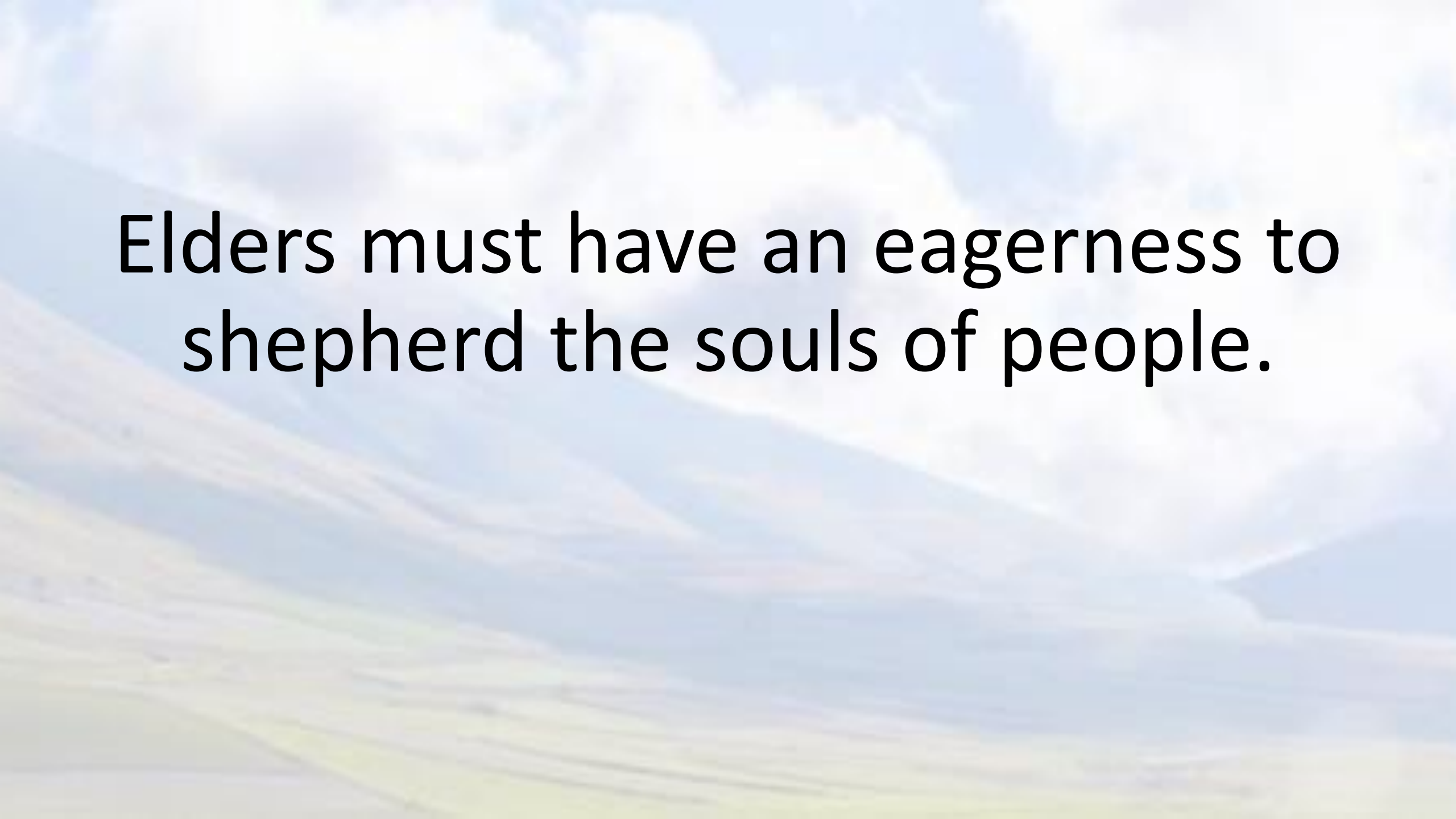
But Eagerly

1 Peter 5:1-4

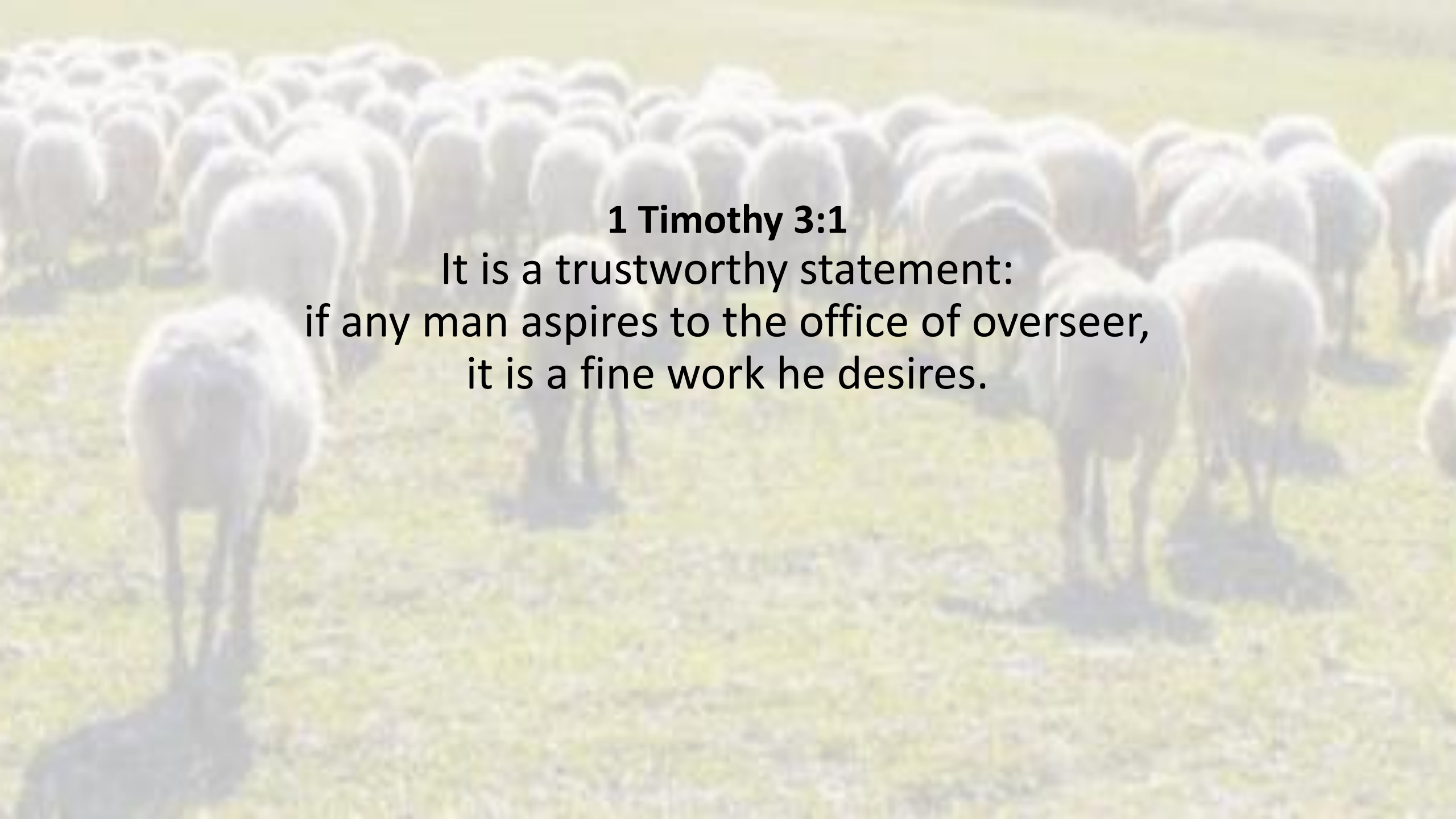
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and not for sordid gain, **but with eagerness;**

nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,
but proving to be examples to the flock.



Elders must have an eagerness to shepherd the souls of people.

A large flock of sheep is shown from behind, standing in a field. The sheep are white and their woolly backs are visible. They are arranged in a loose, somewhat organized pattern, filling most of the frame. The background is a soft-focus green field under a bright sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy statement:
if any man aspires to the office of overseer,
it is a fine work he desires.

Qualifications of an Elder

Elders serve out of willingness not obligation

Elders serve eagerly not greedily.

Elders lead by example not by force.

Not by force

1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you...
shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;
and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

**nor yet as lording it over those
allotted to your charge,**

but becoming examples to the flock.

A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The hills are covered in green grass and are partially shrouded in a light mist or fog. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, creating a serene and atmospheric setting. The overall tone is calm and peaceful.

Elders must not be bullies.

But by example

1 Peter 5:1-4

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shepherd the flock of God among you,
exercising oversight not under compulsion,
but voluntarily, according to the will of God;
and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge,

but becoming examples to the flock.

Elders must be men who are
notably becoming examples.

But **THEY** are not *the* example;
Christ is.

Healthy Leadership

Functions of an elder.

Qualifications of an elder.

Motivations of an elder.



Motivations of an Elder

*Elders are motivated by **anticipation**.*



1 Peter 5:1-4

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as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you...

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

Elders are motivated by anticipation
of Christ's return.

They know they serve Christ.

They know Christ will hold
them accountable.



Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders, and submit to them;
for they keep watch over your souls,
as those who will give an account.
Let them do this with joy and not with grief,
for this would be unprofitable for you.

Motivations of an Elder

Elders are motivated by anticipation.

*Elders are motivated by **expectation.***

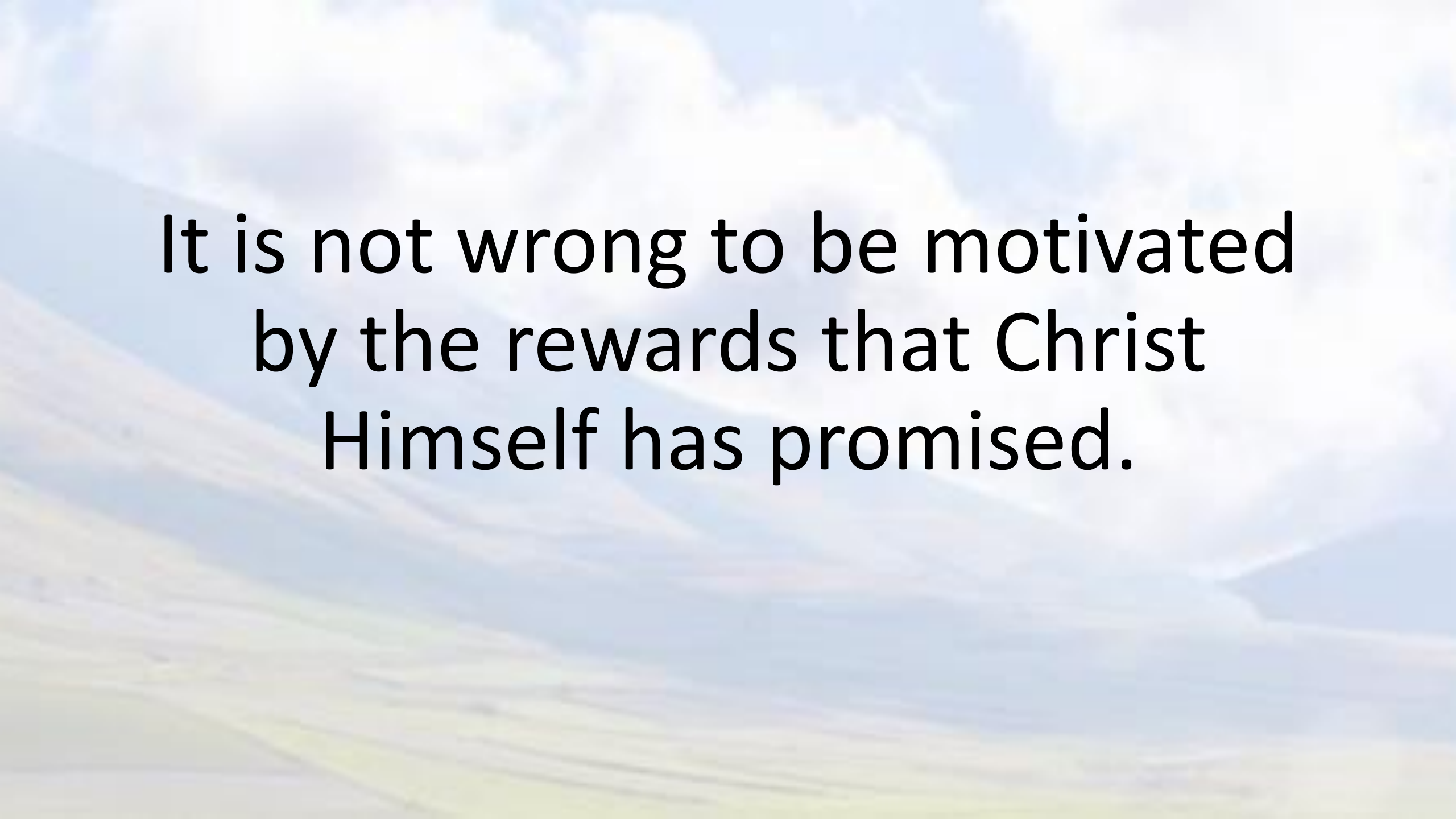
Expectation

1 Peter 5:1-4

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as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
shepherd the flock of God among you...

And when the Chief Shepherd appears,

**you will receive the unfading
crown of glory.**

A scenic landscape with rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The hills are covered in green grass and are partially obscured by a soft, hazy atmosphere. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day. The overall tone is peaceful and serene.

It is not wrong to be motivated
by the rewards that Christ
Himself has promised.



Matthew 5:12

Rejoice, and be glad, for **your reward** in heaven is great...

Luke 6:23

Be glad in that day, and leap for joy, for behold,
your reward is great in heaven.

James 1:12

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has
been approved, he will receive the crown of life,
which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Conclusion:

We all have a responsibility to understand what constitutes healthy leadership; the health of the church depends upon it.