

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. PAUL EXHORTED THE EPHESIAN ELDERS USING SHEPHERD IMAGERY (20:28).
2. PAUL, ACCORDING TO GOD'S HEART, EXHORTED THE EPHESIAN ELDERS (20:17-38)
3. PAUL COMMANDED THE EPHESIAN SHEPHERDS TO FEED GOD'S BLOOD-BOUGHT FLOCK (20:28).
  - a. **The identity and the defined membership of a biblical church (Paragraph 2).**
  - b. **The imperfection and perpetuity of Christ's churches (Paragraph 3).**
  - c. **Christ is the only Head of His churches (Paragraph 4).**
  - d. **Christ the Head of the churches saves His people and gathers them into local congregations (Paragraph 5).**
  - e. **The members of a biblical congregation (Paragraph 6).**
  - f. **Each congregation has sufficient authority from Christ the Head (Paragraph 7).**

**g. The composition of a biblical congregation (Paragraph 8):**

**h. The way of appointing elders and deacons (Paragraph 9):**

**i. The primary work of Christ the Head through a church's government (Paragraph 10):**

**j. Summary: The authority and work of Christ, the apostles, and the elders**

**k. The critical importance of preaching**

**CONCLUSION:**