

Because We Are Willing

In 1 Peter 5, Peter appeals to elders to “be shepherds of God’s flock,” not because they must but because they were willing, as God wanted them to be. Paul wrote that, “If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work” (1 Tim. 3).

It is important for a man to desire a role as a leader in the church. This desire should not be a selfish desire for power or a chance to lord it over the flock, but a genuine desire to serve the Lord and his church. As we continue the process of selecting additional deacons and elders, only those who truly desire these roles should consider it.

But shouldn’t everything we do in service to the Lord be because we are willing?

Do we attend services because we think we have to or because we want to? We should attend the assembling of our brethren because we are willing to consider one another to stir up love and good works, and exhort one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Why do we contribute to the church every week? Yes, the Bible instructs us to take a collection for the saints (1 Cor. 16), but are we giving grudgingly or only because we want to be seen by others? That is not what God wants. We should give because we are willing to provide a means to reach others with the Gospel, thereby saving them from eternal punishment. Our giving should be cheerful, generous, and consistent.

Everything we do in worship or service should be because we are willing. God knows our hearts and desires our willing obedience and worship.

The elders love you and want to serve the Lord through our service to you.

Because we are willing.

For the elders,
Tony Turner