

The Healing The Authority Wound Spiritual Leaders

Responsibility is learning to take care of yourself, leadership is taking care of others

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...take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Acts 20:27-29 – NKJV

[To] the elders...shepherd the flock of God...serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock...

1 Peter 5:1-4 – NKJV

Shepherd the flock of God...

The Lack of Care Wound - When a church member feels their spiritual leader does not care for their needs

Serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly...

The Misdirected Calling Wound – The spiritual leader serves without a sense of calling

Not for dishonest gain...

The Wrong Motive Wound – The leader serves for worldly reasons (money, pride)

Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you...

The Abuse of Power Wound – Healthy leaders should use their power to empower others (not overpower them). Some, instead of being led by the shepherd's staff, were hurt by it.

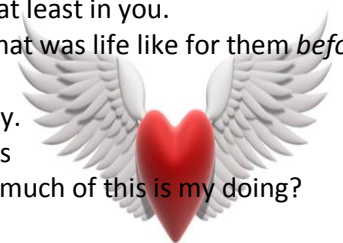
Be examples to the flock ("ensamples" – 'living samples' of what should be)

The Bad Example Wound – Sexual sins, anger, innocent mistakes (not premeditated, inexperience)



HEALING FROM THE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY WOUND

- ✓ One – Affirm the event/offense ** Two – Validate your hurt ** Three – Forgive the offense, **then:**
- ✓ Four – Connect with them as necessary. Your spiritual leader is number one: brother or sister in the Lord. Number two, your leader (in that order!). So it is appropriate to talk with them, in humility, about your wound or to verbally forgive them.
 - *What if my leader is unapproachable?* – Do your part, then pray. Try to connect one time.
 - *Pray for them, Pray for them...* –God, in His timing, will break through--at least in you.
- ✓ *Try to see them through the lens of grace* – Get to know their story too. What was life like for them *before* they became your leader?
- ✓ *Respect their office* – God gave it to them. He will remove them if necessary.
 - Do not!!! – Gossip with others, or bad mouth them to yourself or others
- ✓ *Examine your role too* –How much of this offense is from the leader? How much of this is my doing?



See how David responded to the authority wound -- 1 Samuel 24:8-11

*Recommended Reading -- *Under Cover: The Promise of Protection Under His Authority* (John Bevere)*