<u>**Stand Firm: Standing Firm as Leaders**</u>
Sermon # 17, 1 Peter 5:1-4

Main Point: *Christian leaders are to care for God's church the way Jesus does.*

Getting to Know You

1. Many people ask Pastors, "So, what do you do all week?" As a group, make a list of all the duties of a Pastor you can think of.

Getting into the Book
Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

2. In this passage Peter uses three words to help us define the position of Elder/Pastor. What are those words? (Elder – v. 1; shepherd -v. 2; exercising oversight – v. 2). Based on these words, come up with a one sentence Biblical job description of an Elder/Pastor.

3. Brainstorm some reasons why it is important for a church to be led by a group of Elders/Pastors rather than one Elder/Pastor.

4. What are Elders/Pastors commanded to do? (see v. 2)   What does this word mean? What does an Elder/Pastor specifically do to carry out this command?

5. Part 1:
List the three negative statements as to how Elders/Pastors <u>are not to lead</u>, giving examples of why an Elder/Pastor should not lead that way (i.e. An Elder should not lead out of obligation because he will resent the work and set a bad example for the church).

    Part 2:
List the three positive statements of how they <u>are to lead</u>, giving examples of why an Elder/Pastor should lead that way (i.e. An Elder should lead eagerly because it will help him endure the hardships of ministry even if he receives no appreciation from the church).

6. Why is it crucial for an Elder/Pastor to "prove to be an example to the flock"? You may refer to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and/or Titus 1:5-9.

Getting Out There

7. What do the following verses say about how a church can support their Elders/Pastors?
    a. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
    b. 1 Thessalonians 5:25
    c. Hebrews 13:17

Pray
Take time to pray for the Elders/Pastors of Findlay EFC. Elders: Rex August, Don Bozell, Dave Cass, Dewey Harris, Blair Hayward, Jon Jeter, Mike Roberts, Trace Roth, Scott Tinman, Steve Toy. Pray also that God would raise up Godly men to serve as future Elders/Pastors.