

Relational Leadership | Relational Church

This passage of scripture in Acts 20:13-37, where Paul says goodbye to the elders of the Ephesian church, is breathtaking in its emotional intensity. These are not colleagues moving onto another assignment; these are dear friends on mission together. Parting touched their hearts. How can we build such a relational culture in local church leadership teams and across whole networks of churches? We also gain a stimulating insight in this passage concerning true spiritual authority and how it works within a relational framework rather than through title, office, or structure.

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- I. Invited Authority but Real Authority (v17)
- II. Proximity and Authenticity (v18)
- III. Relationship isn't confined to one context (v20)
- IV. Primary commitment to Christ overrides all other relationships (v22-24)
- V. The Holy Spirit testifies to me (v23)
- VI. The cost of relationship and mission (v25)
- VII. The whole counsel of God – not people pleasing or selective content (v27)
- VIII. This is not a career but a love for God's people (v28)

IX. Beware - 'fierce wolves' (v29-30)

X. Invested in relationship (v31)

XI. No entitlement culture (v33-34)

XII. Pain of loss (v36-38)

Suggested Readings: See Session 1 Notes