

Is the Church Overprotective?

- A. We've been taking a serious look in recent weeks at serious questions that many grapple with.
- B. Our aim has been to open God's word together in search of rock-solid truths that can provide stability to all generations (*Matt 7:24-25*).
- C. This morning: **"Is the church overprotective?"**

I. Why Would We Even Speak of "The Church" and Being "Protective" in the Same Context?

- A. The "good shepherd" who laid down his life for the sheep warned his sheep about dangerous _____ (*John 10:1-21; Matt 7:15; 24:23-24*). His inspired messengers warned of:
 1. Fierce wolves (*Acts 20:29-30*)
 2. False teachers (*2 Pet 2:1-22*)
 3. Deceitful workmen (*2 Cor 11:4, 13*)
 4. False brothers (*Gal 2:3-5*)
 5. False knowledge (*1 Tim 6:20-21*)
 6. Contrary gospels (*Gal 1:6-12*)
 7. Those who cause divisions and create obstacles (*Rom 16:17-18*)
 8. Those who go beyond the teaching of Christ (*2 John 9-11*)
- B. On top of these dangerous influences, sheep are also prone to _____ (*2 Tim 4:4*) and _____ (*Heb 2:1*).

II. In His Wisdom, God Instituted the Church as a Source of Protection for His Sheep

- A. He has given what we need to _____ and stand strong (*Eph 4:11-16*).
- B. The chief Shepherd has given human _____ a tremendous responsibility (*1 Pet 5:1-5; Heb 13:17; Acts 20:28*).
- C. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have a protective _____ toward each other (*Heb 10:19-25; Jude 20-25*).