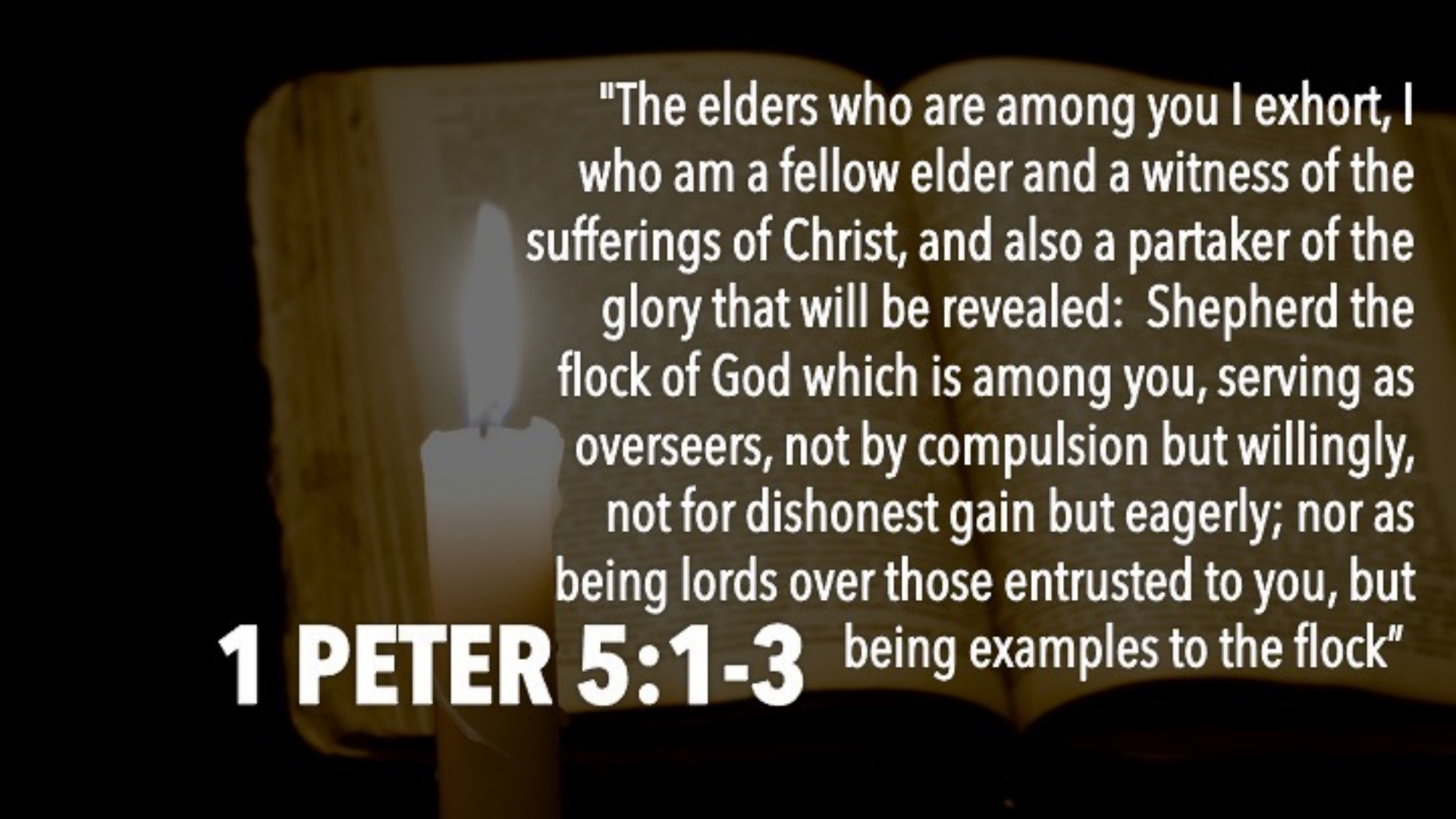


An open book with a lit candle in the foreground, symbolizing church autonomy. The candle is lit and glowing, casting a warm light on the pages of the book. The text "CHURCH AUTONOMY" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters on the right side of the image.

**CHURCH
AUTONOMY**

AUTONOMY STARTS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL

- Galatians 3:27, Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 5:30, 1 Corinthians 12:27
- How exactly am I added to the Lord's church? Is it based on denominational affiliation?
- A denomination requires acceptance of and submission to the group's creeds and rules.

An open book with a lit candle in the foreground. The candle is white with a yellow flame and is positioned on the left side of the image. The book is open, showing two pages. The text on the pages is white and reads: "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, 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".

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1 PETER 5:1-3 being examples to the flock"

"Any boards, conventions, or even outside elders to which a congregation submits, either willingly or otherwise, is a violation of these teachings. Such additions place the congregational rule under someone or something beside the elders "among" them, and it will violate the autonomy that is to be enjoyed by "every church." Since each congregation should be under the oversight and rule of its own elders, then each church must consequently, be absolutely independent of any other church or organizations" ("Autonomy Of The Local Church", Trevor Bowen, insearchoftruth.org).

CHRIST AMONG INDIVIDUAL LAMPSTANDS

- Revelation 1:12-13, 16, 20, 2:1
- The various sins and successes of one congregation did not taint or credit the other congregations.
- So should churches have nothing to do with each other? Of course not, as long as total autonomy is maintained.