

1 PETER

EXILED

STANDING FIRM IN GOD'S GRACE



A Shepherd & Gods Flock

1 Peter 5.1-5

Main Idea

Pastors should be men who feed, care for, and exercise oversight in a manner that willfully seeks to serve and build up Gods people in the faith. The flock should submit to that leadership as to the Lord and be humble, not proud.

Overview

- **Shepherd the flock of God by feeding and caring:**
 - Peter writes as one who has experienced all he is calling them to (vs. 1)
 - Shepherd has within its meaning the ideas of feeding, caring, and ruling:
 - Feeding: Feed the word of God as that is the only thing that brings health
 - Caring: Utilizing the word in a manner that is personal and intimate

- **Shepherd the flock of God by exercising Christ like oversight:**
 - Oversight means to be leading through watching over the flock:
 - Elders/Pastors/Overseers/Bishops are charged to guide the sheep which demands they be watching over any weaknesses
 - Not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have you (vs. 2)
 - Pastors should not have to be made to Pastor
 - Christ was not MADE to Pastor...He willingly laid down His life (Jhn 10)
 - Not for shameful gain, but eagerly
 - Pastors should not be looking to get something shamefully but give something gladly
 - Christ became shameful so He could take the shame away from others (Phil. 2)
 - Not domineering over those in your charge, but examples (vs. 3):
 - Pastors should not rule with a heavy hand, but should be Gentle, yet firm
 - Christ was a servant leader who was both gentle when needed and firm when needed...He was no autocrat that was heavy handed (though He could have been)
 - Pastors will receive an unfading crown of glory for their work (vs. 4)

- **Flock should not be proud, but Humble**
 - Younger people are reminded that they (like others, Heb. 13.17) should be subject to the elders
 - All people in the church should be humble toward one another
 - God opposes the proud
 - But He gives grace to the humble
 - Christ was humble, this is the spirit of the Triune God...so it should be with us that take His name

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Discuss the traits of some good/bad leaders. Talk about why you like/dislike them then move into how Peter describes leaders of God's church.*

1. Read 1 Peter 5:1-5. In these verses, Peter is addressing "elders." Why is it profitable for those who are not elders to understand this passage?
2. Verse 1 starts with "So..." How does this passage connect to the previous parts of Peter's letter? What implication does this have for you as you face suffering?
3. In verse 1 Peter identifies with the sufferings of fellow elders. How does this inform his exhortations?
4. The main command is for elders to "shepherd the flock of God that is among you." What does this mean that pastors are to be doing? Use the imagery of a real shepherd to help.
5. What is it about feeding and caring that are so important for pastors? Why would God want them to dedicate their time towards this?
6. How does the addition "flock of God" inform the shepherding they are to do?
7. What does it mean to shepherd/pastor under compulsion, and why is this bad? Why is pastoring willingly good?
8. What does it look like for an elder to shepherd/pastor "not for shameful gain, but eagerly?"
9. What does it look like for an elder to shepherd/pastor "not domineering over those in charge, but being examples to the flock?"
10. How can you be subject to the elders of a church (cf. Hebrews 13.17)?
11. What does pride look like inside the church? Humility?
12. How does Christ picture both the Great Shepherd as well as the "great" flock?

Accountability question: *Identify pride in your life and talk about what it looks like to be humble in that area.*