

1 PETER: IDENTITY IN EXILE

Shepherds, Sheep, and Standing Firm

12 - Humble People Under the Mighty Hand of God

1 Peter 5:1-14 (NLT)

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. **Stand fast in it.**

13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Key Thought: The church that stands firm lives with humility, vigilance, and confidence in God's grace.

1 Peter 5:1 (NLT)

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

1 Peter 5:2-3 (NLT)

Be shepherds of **God's flock** that is **under your care**, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over **those entrusted to you**, but being examples to the flock.

1. Shepherds must lead God's people with humility and integrity.

- Leaders don't own the flock; they're accountable for how they care for it.
- Godly leadership feeds the flock, guards the flock, and models the life it calls others to live.

1 Peter 5:4 (NLT)

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

- True leaders point beyond themselves to the Chief Shepherd.

1 Peter 5:5 (NLT)

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, *clothe yourselves with humility* toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

2. The whole church is called to clothe itself with humility.

- Humility isn't optional church attire; it's what every believer must wear.
- Humility is right alignment with God and others.
- Are you teachable?
- Are you easily offended?
- Do you have to win every conversation?
- Do you insist on being seen, heard, and affirmed?
- Do you receive correction poorly?
- Do you talk more than you listen?
- Pride resists God. Humility positions us to receive His grace.

3. We humble ourselves under God's mighty hand by releasing our anxieties to Him

1 Peter 5:6–7 (NLT)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

- Anxiety reveals what we're holding on to, managing, or controlling instead of entrusting to God.

- Anxiety isn't conquered by denial. It is conquered through transference.
- God's mighty hand is also His caring hand.
- The hand powerful enough to rule your life is tender enough to care for your burdens.
- Because God cares for me, I don't need to carry any burden that causes anxiety.

4. We must stay alert because we have a real enemy.

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- A sleepy church is easy prey for the enemy. We must remain alert.

5. We resist the devil by standing firm in the faith together.

1 Peter 5:9

Resist him, **standing firm in the faith**, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

James 4:6-7 (NRSV)

God gives all the more grace; therefore it says,

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- The devil is resisted not by spiritual swagger, but by steady faith.
- Firm faith is a settled conviction grounded in the truth of God and expressed in fellowship with God's people.
- Isolation feeds vulnerability. Shared faith strengthens resistance.

6. The God of all grace will finish what He started in us

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NIV)

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- The Christian life begins in grace, continues in grace, and stands firm in grace.

- The Church doesn't stand firm simply by trying harder, but by living together under God's grace.