

Talk about shepherding...isn't it amazing that when God talks about leaders = Shepherds
God's leaders are shepherds | CEO = Strategy – Leverage – Maximizing Returns – P&L

- Metaphor Leadership = Ancient - Dusty – Low Status Profession of a shepherd
 - Shepherding isn't an office job; you can't shepherd sheep from behind a desk
 - It's hands-on, often messy, and requires walking alongside the flock
 - People instinctively recognize between leaders who serve themselves and serve others
 - Conan O'Brien – Fired from the Tonight Show...paid his entire staff until landed TBS
 - Tyleneol...servant leadership...1982 – 7 cyanide – Pulled 30 million – Cost them 100 M
- Here is the question I want to answer today = What makes someone worth following?

Charisma? Confidence? Chemistry? Scripture doesn't talk about those as loud as Character

5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Every organization rises or falls on the quality of its leadership

1876 - Battle of Little Big Horn – George Custer – 700 men vs 2500 Native American warriors
Overconfidence – Ignored Intelligence – Refused Reinforcements – Poor Communication
268 men...including Custer – Two Brothers – Brother-in-law – Nephew = Bad Leadership

- Businesses capable CEO - Schools gifted principals - Sports teams experienced coaches
- Same is true church, but God's standard for leadership is radically different from world's
- The world often prizes charisma, influence, power, and success
- God looks for humility, holiness, faithfulness, and a servant's heart

Leadership matters b/c leaders influence direction, health, and future of those they serve

Big Idea - The Church reflects Christ through servant leadership and submissive humility

Jesus was the perfect leader...Jesus was also the perfect follower...Three ways Reflect Jesus

1. Lead with honor (1-3)

5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, Begins by addressing the elders...elders are important part church | No Elders...No Church

- Plurality of elders is vital for spiritual accountability and protecting the congregation

7 Men | Doctrine – Direction – Discipline | Elders Serve by Leading | Shepherd the Flock

⇒ Shepherding Feeds the Flock - Shepherd's first responsibility is to provide nourishment

- Teaching and preaching Word...Steak Dinner vs Big Mac | Healthy food = Healthy Sheep
- Healthy Christians grow through the faithful exposition and application of Scripture

⇒ Shepherding Protects the Flock - Shepherds guard sheep from predators

- Biblical leaders protect church from false teaching, spiritual deception, division, and sin
- Protection requires vigilance, courage, and discernment | Many occasions discipline

⇒ Shepherding Leads the Flock - Does not drive sheep from behind but leads by example

- Biblical leadership is servant leadership...with the sheep | Boss Vs Leader

⇒ Shepherding Cares for the Weak - A shepherd knows the condition of the sheep

- Shepherd gives special attention to those who are hurting or struggling | Broken Leg

⇒ Shepherding Pursues the Wandering - Faithful shepherds seek those who drift away

- **Luke 15:4-7** – Jesus shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to seek the one lost sheep

- Includes lovingly pursuing those who have become spiritually distant – Last Phone Call

Biblical shepherding feeding God's people with His Word, protecting them from spiritual danger, leading them by godly example, caring for their souls, and guiding them toward maturity

That is the, 'What a Shepherd Should do', but what about 'How a shepherd should behave?'

a. Selflessly - exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;

Great difference between doing something because you have to and because you want to
Parent who cares for a sick child through the night does not complain about the obligation

Shepherding God's people is never to be driven merely by obligation or pressure

- Not under compulsion—serving reluctantly, grudgingly, or because no one else will

- But willingly—"I think you have the wrong guy...but if God's calling me...I'll do it!"

b. Eagerly - ...not for shameful gain, but eagerly; | People use position for personal Gain | 30 Rock

"What can I get?" instead of, "How can I serve?" | Leader in the church...what do you get?

- Shepherd must never serve for selfish profit but from an eager desire care for people

- Peter replaces selfish ambition with holy enthusiasm...not reluctant duty

"Eagerly" means with readiness, willingness, enthusiasm, and joyful devotion

Faithful shepherds gladly give themselves because Christ first gave Himself for them

c. Sincerely ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Godly leaders influence others more by who they are than by the authority they possess

Domineering = Rule harshly, to overpower, or to exercise authority in a self-serving manner

A shepherd may carry a staff, but they do not beat the sheep

- Peter replaces the negative with the positive - but being examples to the flock

Greatest influence leader not found eloquent sermons or impressive programs...life Reflects Christ

We impress people up front but we impact people up close

Churches are looking for leaders who are biblically qualified and compelled by Christ

Takeaway: Examine Your Leadership: Role – Responsibility – Reason

2. Lean on hope (4)

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Faithful service is motivated by certain return of Christ and eternal reward He promised

- World fades - Trophies dust | Careers end | Money away | Earthly recognition forgotten
- Peter reminds us that there is a reward that never loses its beauty, value, or glory
- Directs our eyes away toward the day when the Chief Shepherd returns...3 things verse

a. Anticipate the Return of the Chief Shepherd - And when the chief Shepherd appears,

- Not say "if" Christ appears, but "when." His return is not uncertain—it is guaranteed

I don't know when the Chief Shepherd is coming back...and I don't care...what to anticipate

i. Jesus Will Return Personally and Visibly – Not a secret...spiritual...every eye see Him

ii. He Will Come in Glory and Power – Not a suffering servant but as the conquering King

iii. The Heavens Will Be Shaken - Creation itself will testify that the King is coming

iv. The Dead Will Be Raised - Believers who have died will be resurrected...transformed

v. Jesus Will Judge the World - His return will bring both salvation and judgment

• Believers = Day of Joy and Vindication | Unbelievers = Day of Fear and Accountability

vi. Christ Will Establish His Eternal Kingdom - Sin, death, and Satan will be defeated forever

- God's people will dwell with Him in the new heavens and new earth | Anticipate...

His glory will be undeniable, His judgment will be righteous, and His kingdom will be eternal

b. Appreciate the Reward of the Chief Shepherd - you will receive the unfading crown of glory
stephanos = Victors Wreath | First century athletic crowns were made of leaves...hippy

They would die and fade away...not the crown of glory that comes to those who serve Christ

Our crown: Unfading – Deteriorates | Glorious – Reflects Christ | Eternal – Never lost or replaced

- Personal – You will receive | Certain – Christ gives | Gracious – Gift to faithful servants

Five crowns, spoken of in Scripture, that are given to believers at the time of judgment

- i. **Imperishable Crown** – 1 Cor. 9:24-27 | Exercise self-discipline...those not mastered sin
 - Represents: Victory through spiritual discipline
- ii. **Crown of Rejoicing** – 1 Thess. 2:19-20 | Lead others Christ and invest in spiritual growth
 - Represents: Joy over people brought to Christ and nurtured in the faith
- iii. **Crown of Righteousness** – 2 Tim. 4:7-8 | Who anticipate Christ's return & live in light
 - Represents: Faithful endurance with an eternal perspective
- iv. **Crown of Life** – Js. 1:12 | Persevere through trials and remain faithful under suffering
 - Represents: Steadfast faith under testing
- v. **Crown of Glory** – 1 Pt. 5:4 | Represents: Faithful shepherds care for God's flock

Takeaway - Serve faithfully now and anticipate eternal rewards

3. Live with humility (5)

⁵Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

God blesses those who willingly humble themselves before Him and one another

- Peter now concludes by reminding every believer humility is the garment we must wear
- a. **Submit with Humility** - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders
 - Peter addresses the younger believers, calling them to willingly submit to the elders
 - Caden in a carpentry apprentice program – The older / wiser teach the younger
 - Sit with old wise saints...aim to be an old wise saint worth sitting with
 - b. **Serve with Humility** - Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another
 - Peter broadens the command beyond the younger believers – Clothe with humility
 - Imagine tying on an apron...for work...not display | Be like Jesus...washed disciples' feet
 - True humility: Seeks unity instead of recognition | Serves instead of being served
 - Forgives instead of holding grudges | Encourages instead of competing
 - Ask yourself: Who can I serve this week? Is my desire to be noticed, or to glorify Christ?
 - c. **Seek God's Grace through Humility** - "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
 - Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34 to remind believers that humility is not optional
 - Only two possibilities: God opposes the proud | Gives grace to the humble
 - The word *opposes* is a military term describing an army lined up against an enemy
 - Pride places a believer in opposition to God's working
 - Humility positions us to receive His grace, His strength, His favor, and His help
 - The Christian life is sustained by grace, and grace flows most freely into humble hearts
 - Rainwater always flows to the lowest place...imagine standing on a mountain...top/bottom
 - God's grace flows toward hearts that have been humbled before Him.

Takeaway: Choose to put on humbleness:

No matter your role - No matter the issue - Never doubting God's grace

We can't do any of this without God's grace

We can't lead well, we can't follow well, we can't even identify as his people were it not for his grace poured out for us on the cross.

So, in view of that grace, let's lead with honor, lean on hope, and live with humility

The Church reflects Christ through servant leadership and submissive humility