

8: **God's Humble Flock** (1 Peter 5:1-14)

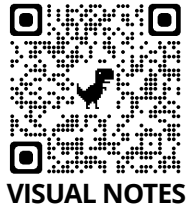
Today we conclude this letter as the one whom Jesus commanded, "Feed my sheep" reminds God's flock to live holy & humble, as we await the return of our Chief Shepherd.

teachingnotes

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* Bible Translation: **NIV** (New International Version)



Elders - Shepherds of God's Flock

1 Peter 5:1-3 (NIV)

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: **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**.

- The Greek term *presbyteros* translated as **elders** sometimes refers to the older men.
- **Elders** is also applied **to spiritually mature men** (not physical age) who are appointed to lead the church after meeting the spiritual criteria (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9).
- ✓ The practice of the 1st century church was to appoint multiple elders for each church (Acts 14:23) to **be shepherds of God's flock** - to lead, feed, and protect His people ("direct the affairs of the church" - including "preaching and teaching" 1 Tim 5:17-18).
- Most Southern Baptist churches appoint *one elder* - we call him **pastor** (Latin term for "shepherd"). Larger churches *might have a number of pastoral staff who serve in this task*, while some churches ask volunteer leaders to help fill the gap to help lead the church.
- Some Southern Baptist churches have begun the task of moving to an elder-led model.

? **Are WE open to changing our leadership model to being a multiple ELDER-led model?**

We are exploring this question and will attempt to answer in the future.

The resurrected Jesus gave Simon Peter this final command: "**Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep.**" (Jn 21:15-17) As a **fellow elder**, Peter *HAD* watched over God's flock, and now he reminds these elders of *HOW* and *WHY* they should do the same.

X The biggest danger of *those leading & those being led* is the temptation to be *PRIDEFUL* rather than *HUMBLE*.

Peter reminds these shepherds to **care** for the flock rather than manipulate the flock, to **serve**, not because they **must**, but because it's their privilege and they are **willing**. Following the humble example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, these elder under-shepherds should be **eager to serve** instead of looking to be served.

✓ Following the example of Jesus, these shepherds are to be humble examples to the flock.

While the majority in the church are not appointed elders/shepherds in the church, these actions and attitudes are expected from all God's people - that's why shepherds are to be **examples to the flock**.

✓ The shepherds are to be examples, **the sheep are to follow the example**. How are you doing on that?

? **Where are you SERVING and WHY?** Is it out of DUTY (have to) or DELIGHT (want to)?

? **Who do you have influence over** - children, teenagers, other adults? Are you caring for them or manipulating them, inspiring them or intimidating them, servicing them or expecting to them to serve you?

? **If others follow YOUR example**, will they be humble servants or prideful taskmasters?

What's the WHY? (1 Pet 1:4–5, 13; 4:13)

1 Peter 5:4 (NIV)

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

Jesus IS going to return. When He does, will He recognize you as part of God's Humble Flock - one of His shepherds or one of His sheep? If so, then **you will be given a crown of glory that will never fade away** (referring to eternal life).

- Leafy crowns were given to victors in the Greco-Roman world for athletic victories or military conquests.¹ While these crowns wilted and faded away...

✓ **The victory reward for the follower of Jesus is ETERNAL!**

✗ But WHEN Jesus returns those who have *NOT* been faithful to Him, WILL NOT be given the reward of ETERNAL LIFE with Jesus. Turn from your sin and turn to Jesus.

Sheep of God's Flock Submit to Shepherds of God's Flock

1 Peter 5:5a (NIV)

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders.

- Some commentators think this points to how younger believers should treat their elder church family.
- Peter is likely addressing the **younger** who might stiff-arm authority rather than appreciate it, while the older folks in the church had the tendency to respect authority.

✓ Those who are *led* are to humbly **submit** to the leadership of their **elders**.

Sadly, some churches discount this command & limit their pastors' roles to "preacher" while others make the real leadership decisions. The church votes, business people make the decisions, and the pastors just preach and visits folks. That might be good American democracy at work, but that's NOT God's model for the Church.

✱ Healthy parents will guide their children toward healthy decisions and relationships. When the parents love and protect the children, and the children submit to their parent's leadership, the family experiences peace & health.

✱ John MacArthur

The foundational attitude in the life of the saint must be submission, a relatively familiar theme already in this epistle. In 2:13–20 and 3:1–7 Peter commanded believers to be submissive to employers, civil authorities, and within marriage. No less is required of those under the leadership of the divinely instituted office of pastor in the most important entity on earth—Christ's own church.²

God's Humble Flock

1 Peter 5:5b–6 (NIV)

All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." [Prov 3:34] **Humble yourselves**, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

What's the difference in how God responds to you (**opposes** or **shows favor**)? **HUMBLE** instead of **PRIDEFUL**.

Why should we be humble before God? *He created us, provides for us, and forgives us!*

Why should we be humble toward one another? *Our King commands it (Jn 13:34). Our King models it (Jn 13:3-11).*

- Peter writes "**clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.**" This is figurative language also used in a literal way of with clothing that is tied on (like an apron).³ Was Peter was recalling that time that Jesus pulled off His outer clothing and tied a towel around His waist, as the King humbled Himself to wash the feet of His servants?

John 13:14–15 (NIV) Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.**

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE

¹ Thomas R. Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter, Jude, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 236.

² John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Peter, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 276.

³ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 525.

Give it to the One Who Cares For You

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Cast all your anxiety on Him because **He cares for you.**

You've never had anything to be anxious about, have you? Money stress, health concerns, broken relationships, work struggles, or facing spiritual persecution? Pull that heavy burden off your weary back and hand it to your Heavenly Father. When Peter wrote this: "**Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you**" - was he remembering Jesus saying this?

Matthew 11:28 (NIV) **Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest.**

There is One Who Doesn't Care For You

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

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

You and I have a REAL **enemy**. Because we have this real enemy, we are to **be alert and of sober mind**. The opposite is to be asleep, distracted or drunk.

The Devil loves when:

- We are spiritually asleep (not **alert**), to be totally unaware that he exists or is at work.
- We are drunk (not **sober**) on our own pleasures & passions - distracted from what matters most.

Tactics of Lions

- The prowling lion keeps quiet and camouflages its presence, laying still until it springs up and pounces on its prey, who isn't aware of the lion's presence...until it's too late.
- At other times the roaring lion wants its enemies to know it is near and to live in fear.

Christians are to be aware of the Devil, but not live in FEAR of the Devil. We know He is powerful and dangerous, but we also know demons beg Jesus not to send them to hell. But, until that day, while the Devil and his demons will continue to look for **someone to devour**,

Christians must **resist him by standing firm in the faith** - trusting (faith) who our Good Shepherd is and what our Good Shepherd says. The Devil might kill our bodies, he cannot touch our souls. We know that we aren't the first to go through attacks from the enemy as **believers throughout the world** have been insulted, persecuted, and even killed for their faith in Jesus. We know that THIS side of eternity - is NOT the end.

And that's what Simon Peter reminds us of next.

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.

Last week being reminded that...

Future Hope > Present Suffering

There is a day coming when all pain and suffering will fade into the background as we stand before Jesus - **restored, made strong, firm, and steadfast**. That's the time that Simon Peter was looking forward to.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE

Faithful Family Standing Firm

1 Peter 5:12-14 (NIV)

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

- **Silas** was a **faithful brother** who traveled with Paul (being persecuted, beaten, & imprisoned alongside Paul). Silas was a Roman citizen, like Paul (Acts 15:40, 16:25, 37). Silas was Simon Peter's secretary who wrote down his words ("with the help of Silas...I have written to you").
- The faithful Christians in the church in Rome - coded as "**she who is in Babylon**" send greetings.
- And then there was "**my son Mark**" - that's John Mark who also spent time traveling with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25; 13:4-5), and who likely wrote the Gospel of Mark as Simon Peter's secretary.

WHY SHOULD THIS MATTER TO US?

We need brothers and sisters in Christ to walk through the difficult days and the glorious days TOGETHER.

God's Humble Flock must remember that Jesus has given those **who are in Christ**, His **PEACE**... in the middle of the persecution, in moments of pain, God is near & God cares.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (850-464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged/encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain why.
2. **Read 1 Peter 5:1-6** and give the details of how those leading and those being led are to show humility to one another.
3. Give some positive examples you have seen in how brothers and sisters in churches have shown humility to one another and served one another.
4. What are some characteristics of those who humble themselves before God?
5. **Read 1 Peter 5:7**. Share why this short verse is so encouraging to YOU and how you might use this to encourage others. Is there anyone you need to share this verse with? How can we pray for them right now?
6. **Read 1 Peter 5:8-9**. What's the danger of discounting the devil's influence in our world, and what's the danger of blaming everything wicked that happens in our world on the devil?
7. **Read 1 Peter 5:12-14**. If YOU were to write a brief list of spiritual brothers/sisters who have stood beside you through the good and bad, who would be on the list and why?.
8. Any other insights or questions that we need to discuss?
9. Share your prayer needs and lift each other up to our God Who listens!