

SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 5:1-5 | ELDERS & EVERYONE

When it comes to leadership, there's been a long debate. And the question goes something like this: do the leaders make the times, or do the times make the leader? Another way to ask the question is: are people born leaders, or can they be made leaders?

Whichever is true, the correlations with difficulty and leadership manifest quickly. And in times of difficulty, when competent, faithful, and effective leaders do not come forward, then the people will pay a high price. This is true on the federal government level or the state government level, all the way down to the individual business or even a family. This is true for churches as well.

When Christians find themselves under increasing pressure to be silent, to compromise the gospel, or even to abandon the faith – in such times of trouble, good leadership is even more important.

No doubt, Peter is writing to a church that required such leadership within the dispersed church. Let's look at the exhortation written to the elders and to the churches so that Christ may be glorified and the body of Christ might flourish.

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1. 1 PETER 5:1-5. What is something the Lord highlighted to you this morning from the message? Any thoughts or questions?

2. WHAT ARE ELDERS. Who are the elders? What is their role? Why does Peter write use the plural when addressing them?

3. ELDERS' MOTIVATION. What does Peter use to incentivize or motivate the elders to discharge their duties well? What are some wrong motivations an elder might seek in his ministry?

4. ELDERS' RESPONSIBILITY. What responsibilities do people commonly expect of elders that are not required in the Bible? What are some responsibilities of elders that the Bible requires that people do not expect, or do not want, elders to do?

5. SUBJECT TO ELDERS. Who does Peter call to "be subject" to the elders? Is it only people who are younger? Why would Peter use such verbiage? Does being subject to the elders mean there is no accountability for them?

6. PRAY. How can we pray for the elders to shepherd faithfully in times of difficulty, and how can we pray to be subject to them in a biblically faithful and accountable way?