

The Leaders We Can All Follow

1 Peter 5:1-5

1 PETER

PEOPLE OF PURPOSE
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Ministry leadership is a high calling to lowly service. It's not about upward mobility but downward. It's *descending* into greatness. In the world there is a kind of positional leadership where people aspire to higher titles and offices so they can be the bosses of all. But in Christ's kingdom, *positional leadership* has us all moving down to the mailroom and out to the warehouse where we can be servants of all. And in our cynical world—where every leader is suspect and every person is wary of being exploited—biblical, servant leadership is not only the right way to be, it's the only way to be. God will bless and begrace it!

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5, then discuss:

1. Just about everyone has an authority problem. On a scale of 1—10, how bad is yours? Explain.
 - What elements of our collective authority problem might be legit?
 - Which ones probably aren't?
2. Have you ever felt victimized by a toxic leader or an abusive church?
 - What can you tell us about it?
 - Has your faith in "leadership" on the whole ever been restored?
 - What would it take to begin trusting and following again?
3. Images of sheep and shepherding occur about 400 times in the Bible (that's a lot!).
 - What does this tell us about God's leadership heart?
 - How does that inform, inspire, or challenge your heart and leadership?
 - What should we do if we feel like our spiritual leaders are majorly missing the mark?
4. Peter lists three "not-this-but-that's" in the passage. Apply them to your life.
 - i. *Not under compulsion, but willingly*
 - ii. *Not for shameful gain, but eagerly*
 - iii. *Not domineering, but being an example*
 - Which is your strong suit? With which do you struggle most?
 - What's one practical, tangible way you can seek to improve this week?
5. Peter promises the "unfading crown of glory" to faithful spiritual leaders (which matches up with the "crown of life" and "crown of righteousness" promised to all believers).
 - What does that mean to you? What do you think that is?
 - How motivating is that to you?

***Close by praying for each other, particularly in your areas of leadership.
And pray for your pastors and elders—we need the strength of your prayer support!***