

STRANGERS & EXILES



CHRIST'S PEOPLE IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

On Eldership – 1 Peter 5:1-4

November 19, 2023

Elders are sinners, just as we all are. And Christ died for them, just as he died for all of us. Elders/Pastors are the means through which Christ pastors his people, and Christ is their Pastor as well. Elders are called to die daily to themselves, they are called to lay down their lives for the church there are entrusted with, and to suffer. They are called to give us Jesus, imitate him, speak of him, share in his sufferings. All of this is in the glorious hope that Jesus, the chief shepherd, will come to gather his sheep.

[If you're working through these in a group, jump straight to Apply]

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasized, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarize these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does this reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his readers to respond to these words?

Apply – After seeking to understand God’s Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Why would God use sinful and broken men to lead his church?
- How are Pastors to conduct their ministry?
- If a Pastors role is that of laying his life down and suffering for his church, how can the church members respond to this?
- Why does Peter write about the appearance of the chief shepherd? What hope does this give and how is the relationship between church and elders to be seen in light of it?