

The Shepherds' Calling

1 Peter 5:1-4

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:1-4 NIV)

The Elders' Role (1 Peter 5:1-2a)

The role of the elder is to be a shepherd to God's flock.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers (1 Peter 5:1-2 NIV)

1. To protect the flock and the shepherd

Acts 20:28-31

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28 NIV)

2. To feed the flock

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2 NIV)

1 Timothy 5:17

3. To lead the flock

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5 NIV)

2 Tim 4:1-5

The Elders' Readiness (1 Peter 1:2b-3)

...not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 1:2b-3 NIV)

Readiness involves:

1. Willingness

2. Character

Titus 1:5-9

3. Spiritual maturity

Titus 1:5-9

4. Humility

not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.
(1 Peter 1:3 NIV)

The Elders' Reward (1 Peter 1:4)

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 1:4 NIV)

The crown of glory