



**About Shepherds and Sheep
Instructions on How to Be Sheepy
Part 1
1 Peter 5:1-14**

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We are entering a section of scripture that many tend to decide doesn't apply to them since they are not elders, pastors or leaders within the church. But all of us serve the King and all of us are accountable to Him for how we do life. Those of us who serve, including me, desire and need your prayers.



Also, some of us will find ourselves falling into the category of an elder simply because we lead a group, teach a class, raise kids, disciple new believers, and step out in faith following Jesus.

Peter has been providing us instruction and guidance for remaining faithful while under persecution. Not something any of us wants to consider but as we did a deep dive, we did discover that all of us are subject to attack from the enemy at anytime. We are not to be surprised about it but expect it as a reality for those of us who have chosen to no longer be a part of the world system, but have instead, decided to follow Jesus. Paul told Timothy expect it.

2 Timothy 3:12

“Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (NET 2nd ed.)

But Christ.

1 John 4:4

“You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” (NET 2nd ed.)

With Jesus behind us, always, just as He promised, then in Him, we’ve got this. Now, Peter who at heart is the shepherd that Jesus said he would be, addresses all of those who he considers to be colleagues. Peter is not the Pope. He is not senior to anyone, and he is not talking from the square of seniority as he addresses those who are pastors and leaders, or as he likes to call them, elders.

He is going to be discussing the need for us, as we see others in the body being persecuted, to be in solidarity with them. One of things Satan tries to do in the church is to divide and conquer. Persecution, unless we are aware of this need for solidarity in the body, has the potential for causing division within the body.

Jesus knew this and with a new commandment to His disciples, made it clear to us how we are to operate as His church. We are to be so in love with our savior that we also, in Him, love each other.

John 13:34–35

“I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Loving one another does not mean spreading stories about one another. It means to pray for and express solidarity with our brothers and sisters when they are experiencing testing or persecution.

These are instructions from a fellow pastor because of what has been taking place. Paul expressed how lonely it gets once persecution begins.

2 Timothy 4:16–18

“At my first defense no one appeared in my support; instead they all deserted me—may they not be held accountable for it. **But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me**, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed for all the Gentiles to hear. And so I was delivered from the lion’s mouth! The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever! Amen.” (NET 2nd ed.)

To prevent that in the body, teaching is required. How to love, when it is inconvenient to do so, is to be demonstrated and taught by the shepherds.



1 Peter 5:1–3

“Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.” (NASB 2020)

Everything begins and ends with leadership. Good leadership in the church results in sound and healthy fellowships, active disciple making and those in the body, going to out to win others.

Every single elder, church leader or servant has the same ability to be outstanding at what they do and provide excellent Godly leadership.

As believers, we are all filled with the Holy Spirit. As a leader, I realize how deficient I really am to be able to do what it is He has called me to do. I can only do this job of an elder, a shepherd, through the power of the Holy Spirit because in my strength and power, I’ve got nothing. I not only desire to be filled with the Spirit, but to be baptized with His power and to have rivers of living water gushing out of me.

I cannot say I am as paranoid about it as Paul was, but I am working on that. Peter has been on the receiving end of persecution. He was subjected to it by those who were his fellow Jews, brothers. He knows firsthand what it means to have those under your care as an elder go through persecution as well as going through it personally.

One of his deacons, Stephen, was murdered by the religious leadership at the Temple. He witnessed Saul then begin his reign of terror arresting whole families forcing much of the church in Jerusalem at the time to leave for self-preservation purposes. Seeing Saul come to Christ and become Paul was a big deal.

Peter does not hold himself out as someone who is to be respected nor does he ask for or demand respect by saying he is an apostle, He is, but what is important for the man who was so filled with pride earlier in his life is this. He wants all to see Jesus, not Peter. So, Peter simply identifies himself as a fellow elder. This does not mean he is hanging out with a bunch of old dudes, he is talking about the leadership of the church. The word translated elder is Πρεσβυτέρους (presbyterous). This is the title of an office and is not a description of seniority or age.

Therefore, because of the persecution which is a sifting of those who truly belong to Jesus Christ from those who do not, it is not only better, as Peter has already stated, to persevere now in the light of what glory is in our future, but believers persevere, it provides a unique opportunity for those in leadership. When those you are teaching and leading are persecuted and you step up and identify with them, you also identify yourself as a target.

Something I have always told those who take that next step of faith and step out to serve the Lord, is this. You are placing a red X on your back for the enemy. But 1 John 4:4, He is greater. We are serving the creator of the universe, and He has already defeated Satan and all his minions on the cross. “Therefore, the elders especially should not draw back from shepherding the people, for it is God’s will that they willingly lead the church, even though by doing so they may make themselves a larger target of persecution.” (Jobes 2005, 300)

Peter has identified himself as part of this group and he has indeed the resume to reflect that. As a result, he personally knows their fears, responsibilities and the pressures that go along with the job.



Elders at this time were for the most part “chosen by the Apostles, with the concurrence of the Churches, (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5;) their functions were to oversee, to administer order and direct discipline, to watch over pure doctrine and even to teach.” (Lange, et al. 2008, 85)

Peter, after identifying himself as an elder, also includes an item from his resume, the Mount of Transfiguration. When he says he is a “fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed” he is drawing up the fact he was not only an eyewitness to the crucifixion, but the glory.

When he refers to the crucifixion, he is also referring to his failure. Everyone remembers what kind of a witness he was that evening, he denied the Lord, not once but three times. Yet Jesus restored him to ministry demonstrating grace and love in action. If you feel like you have failed the Lord, He is still standing there waiting for you to repent, return and come back into fellowship. 1 John 1:9 is that important.

He was indeed a witness to the crucifixion, but he also saw Jesus in all His glory at the Mount of Transfiguration. He personally witnessed the glory of the resurrection to come.

Peter was a witness ... a witness who stood forgiven, who stood restored, who basked in the warmth of God’s grace. This is why he described himself as one who also will share in the glory to be revealed, the future glory that will come to believers when Christ returns. (Walls and Anders 1999, 88)

Peter is not special; he is a sinner saved by grace just like all of us. And with what he says here, he is making that point.

Now that he has the attention of the elders, it is time to encourage them and his first word to them is a command that he heard personally from Jesus and now passes down to us today. “Shepherd the flock.” In one of His post resurrection appearances, Jesus came for one purpose, to restore Peter and to give him an assignment. When Jesus restored Peter, He made that, being a shepherd, the new central focus of his life and he never forgot that.

John 21:15–17

“After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.” A second time Jesus said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.” A third time Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was sad because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” so he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.” (GNB)

When Peter commands “shepherd the flock,” he has a specific idea in mind and unfortunately, there are those who in that day and continuing to today, still struggle with what he is saying.

He admonishes the elders to feed, not fleece, “the flock of God which is among you.” They were to feed the people by ministering the truth of God as made known in His holy Word. What a grievous thing it is when men, professing to be servants of Christ, set before the sheep and lambs of His flock, unscriptural teachings which cannot edify but only mislead! (Ironsides 1947, 57)

1 Peter 5:2–3

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.” (NASB 2020)



Peter outlines for us here what it means to be a pastor, a shepherd of the flock. He tells us what the job is and is not.

Contrary to popular opinion and what is taking place in many churches today, the job description provided by the Lord through Peter here is not one many embrace.

God is the one who calls Pastors. He is the one who assigns a portion of His flock for them oversee. Faithfulness then becomes the key.

What we see today though is way too many calling themselves to be Pastors. They are in it for the gold and the glory. They are in it to make a name for themselves.

You see, there is this thing about Jesus in and among the churches that we see reflected to us in the language of John in Revelation 1-3.

Lampstands signify each church as they would today. How many would we see Jesus prepared to snuff out?

“Shepherding is more than preaching. It has reference to the whole care of the flock. A good pastor is more than a good preacher. Some congregations (flocks) want the pastor to do no overseeing but only to preach, but that is unscriptural.” (Gingrich 1997, 33) Pastor/teacher is a real calling.

We are reminded, once again, of all of us as believers in Jesus Christ being sheep, His flock. The elder, pastor or shepherd has been charged with providing for the care and feeding of just a small part of the flock.

Being a Biblically oriented shepherd or pastor is also something that was taken overboard too. Yes, given the opportunity, Satan will take anything and use it as a source of church hurt and abuse and for a while, there was the aberration of the shepherding movement. Which turned into spiritual abuse.

“The definition of shepherding is leading the people of God to walk with God.” (Franklin 2005, 132) Per Peter, by example.

To truly understand this, we need to look at what it means to be sheep; how sheepy are we? Recall that in Psalm 23, we learn that “the Lord is my shepherd.” Anyone called to come alongside of Jesus and participate with Him in the shepherding of His flock must always remember, the flock is His, not yours. Calvary Chapel belongs to Jesus.

We belong to Him because He chose to create you and me to be the object of His love. He knew we would need Him as a shepherd, and He made us anyway. He made us knowing that like sheep, we would run into a ditch called the fall in Genesis 3. Yet He made us anyway.

He knew that and made provisions for us with the cross and His resurrection. Now, as we come to Jesus as our savior, it hits me that we “truly belong to Him simply because He has bought us again at the incredible price of His own laid-down life and shed blood.” (Keller 2019)

Jesus refers to this in John 10 and this was something Peter never forgot, as we see it here in 1 Peter.

John 10:11–15

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **The hired hand,** since he isn’t a shepherd and the sheep aren’t his own, sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf drags them off and scatters them. The hired worker behaves like this because that’s all he



is, a hired worker; so it doesn't matter to him what happens to the sheep. **I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me—just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father—and I lay down my life on behalf of the sheep.**" (CJB)

He is our example.

Peter begins by describing the shepherd as one who is to take care of, exercise oversight of, that portion of the flock he has been given charge of. We are talking about the local church here and the word used for shepherd literally means to tend. "Pastoring includes the duties of feeding, leading, guiding, guarding, and providing for the needs of those in the church—just like a shepherd does these same tasks for his sheep (cf. John 21:16)." (Constable 2003, 1 Pe 5:2)

Just as a new mother needs to take care of her baby, a disciple-maker who helps a spiritually dead person come to faith needs to help that spiritual infant grow up. Spiritual infants don't understand the rules of the new game they are playing. They don't know that a spiritual war is on and that they have a new Enemy, who wants to kill and destroy them (see John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8). They don't realize they need spiritual protection, nor do they know what weapons and armor are available to them or how to use them (see Ephesians 6:10–18). (Putman 2010, 52-53)

The flock belongs to the Lord, not to the shepherd. Calvary Chapel is not my church; it is the Lord's. Those who attend are the Lord's as well. All ministry you and I are privileged to be called to and involved in is not ours, it is the Lord's and He is the one entrusting it to us and relying on each of us to remain faithful to His calling.

This is why Peter says the work is to be done voluntarily, not because you have been drafted into it. I say that because there have been those service opportunities in the past I have been involved in where I was drafted to do this. Going to Bible School, if the local church finds out about that, kind of opens that door.

I learned, a long time ago, to say no to those attempts of others to draft me into something I was never called to do. Every time I said yes, I was miserable because I was not called to do it. Yes, they will indeed try to guilt you into it. The person asking is someone who most times, is well meaning and looking to fill a slot or need they must fill and many times, they themselves do not want to do.

There are way too many people today serving in local churches who think of their service as drudgery. You see, they were not called into it, but they were guilted into it.

Do we have opportunities for service here at Calvary Chapel, yes, we do.

Are there times where I would like to use the USAF method of determining volunteers for assignment, yes. But as a church, we rely on God's people serving Him and allowing Him to be the one who calls. That means we too must wait on the Lord.

We really do need a few more to help set up and tear down on Sundays and Thursdays. We have a bread ministry that is available. We have ongoing opportunities for those who are gifted musically. We would love to have children's ministry, Awana, youth, men's and women's ministries as well. All in the Lord's time and with those that He calls to do the ministry.

You see, if the Lord calls, then you are not doing the ministry under compulsion. You are doing it because He called you to that ministry and it is a step of faith for you as you begin to serve and grow in faithfulness to Him. I love watching the Lord do this and grow those who say yes to Him.



It is our job, as the church, to recognize the calling that is on you, point to the place of need, and then allow you to pray and determine if that is where you are indeed being called to.

And remember, God will not ask you to go to Africa as a Missionary unless that is the next step of faith for you.

I cannot make that decision for you. It is between you and the Lord.

I still remember the first church I interned at, I was going to Bible school and really believed the Lord had called me to teach, and He had. I just did not expect it to be 5th graders. I was not drafted, I simply told the Pastor I believed I was called to teach, he said, "let's see." Try this.

I learned a lot about reliance on the Holy Spirit doing so.

The elder is to do the same, not because they have been drafted to do so, but because the Lord has called them to do so. To be honest, I struggle with the Pastoral job model we see in the church around us today. The number of times I have heard someone say they were called to a place to be the pastor, only to say they were now called elsewhere because of more money or prestige, is pretty disappointing. That takes us to the next thing that Peter instructs us about.

Point one was to exercise oversight not as a draftee but voluntarily according to the will of God. He is the one behind the calling.

Point two here in 1 Peter 5:2, as shepherds, as pastors, it isn't supposed to be all about the Benjamins. But there are whole denominations where that is indeed the "business model" for the church. The world has so infiltrated the denomination that those in it, act like the world.

A few years ago, I entered the process of "applying" to be the Pastor of a church. Yes, many churches do not have plans in place for Pastors who retire or become ill and yes, there are a whole lot of churches that have revolving doors on the pastorate since those who run the church do so from the world's perspective, not the Lord's.

They all want someone who has 20 years of experience and is around 35 with a master's degree as well as a doctorate, married with at least two children. About the doctorate, at least be working towards a doctorate. If you are over the age of 50, don't even bother to apply. No one will call you...ever. Ageism in the church is real. There are recruiting firms now for churches too. Having been an executive in the business world and having hired hundreds of folks over years, I know the drill how it works in the business world. But why has church hiring become a copycat?

Then there is the talk about benefits, pay and the like.

Too many ministers change churches not because God is calling them but because the salary and benefits are calling them. At the same time, this cannot be restricted to monetary gain; it encompasses all forms of gain, for status or benefits or any type of ministering in order to get ahead. (Osborne 2011, 256)

You have a television ministry? I'm in. You have your own radio station? I'm in. And on and on.

I never got far enough into the process to have that discussion. But when you hear words like sacrificial and commitment being overused as someone talks to you, then those are code words for no, you cannot support your family on what we pay. That is a problem as well.



That is a whole separate issue. But the problem Peter focused in on was the one of greed. Being an elder is not a job, it is a calling. Jesus referred to the hired hand problem in the world of shepherding. That is a real problem in way too many churches today. I personally know Pastors today, who are simply hired hands.

I have been privileged to visit several Calvary Chapels and have fellowship with multiple pastors in the past few years. They were called to what they are doing. Men and women on their staff are those who were saved in the church, or helped to build it and coming on staff was a natural next step. There are those times where some have had to go and hire from outside but many times it is more of a referral basis. For example, the pastor of a growing church contacts the pastor of a larger Calvary Chapel and asks if there is anyone in the fellowship who is growing and looking for the next step to serve, like in discipling children in children's ministry.

And yes, the new hires are not all young either. The Lord is the one who calls, He guides and provides, and we must be willing to look beyond the normal world standards and see things His way.

I continually struggle with the typical church job model that takes the most junior person either still in Bible School or Seminary and turns them into the youth pastor with no experience at all. Discipling children and young people is serious business, and I truly believe that is normally not an entry level type of job to come into.

I was privileged to meet a man who had been called to be a youth pastor and who had served in the church he was in for over twenty years in that role. He had no desire to do anything else. He was called to disciple young people.

How effective was he? That church was a source of missionaries who came from the youth ministry. The measure of effectiveness was clearly articulated by Dr. George Barna in his recent book, Raising Spiritual Champions.

We can confidently predict what the future of the world will look like by carefully studying the way that children are raised today. What we invest in young lives will produce outcomes that we can foresee. If we treat children as vulnerable spiritual beings whose faith is being formed now, we will have fewer predicaments to solve in the future. The better we can instill biblical beliefs and behaviors into the minds and hearts of children, the better off we (and they) will be for decades to come. (Barna 2023, 8)

But when it is about the money, folks take that first job as a "Youth Pastor" and then begin looking for the next.

Being called, not under compulsion according to the will of God, being called by Him to where it is you are serving, getting paid is a bonus. There is eagerness in our serving since we realize we are doing so for the Lord, but for those who are doing it as a job, make sure you don't call me before 8am or after 5pm since that is my time. And yes, I have heard church staff say that to those who are in the flock.

That bring us to Peter's point three, don't be a bully. Man is that ever a problem these days.

1 Peter 5:3

"nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock." (NASB 2020)

We have already talked, in our discussion about testing and persecution, and about church hurt. With Peter teeing this up for us, we now move beyond that to the world of the toxic church and the bully Pastor and/or the bully staff.



Pastor Chuck Smith said it was the three g's that would destroy a ministry, gold, glory or gals. Two of the three fall under what Peter is discussing here, "not domineering over those assigned to your care."

Sam Allberry tells us "We are, sadly, familiar with pastors having to leave the ministry because of sexual impropriety. These incidents seem to occur with such frequency as to be barely newsworthy to a watching world. But another, equally sad trend has developed in recent years: Pastors having to leave for bullying. While we should be concerned by this trend, perhaps we shouldn't be surprised." (Allberry 2019)

You see, when we begin to hire and staff churches per the way the world does it, we allow personnel decisions to be made per HR standards rather than Biblical ones.

Everyone wants the Senior Pastor to not only be an excellent teacher but a great leader as well. The problem comes when we make personnel decisions based on what would make a great CEO or General officer. "There is obviously much to be learned from both successful CEOs and also great generals, but both models can quickly become toxic. When either becomes the primary model for Christian leadership, is it any wonder that domineering pastors result?" (Allberry 2019)

Jesus is our example. As we minister and serve, we are to be like Him in all we do. Spirit filled and Spirit led.

We have seen this begin to pop up in churches. In some cases, the bullying has extended into illicit sexual relationships with members of the flock, because the bully feels empowered to do what he wants, but not always.

In one church, the senior pastor was forced to resign by the board after twenty-one pastors "accused him of "abusive and intimidating conduct," which included harsh language, belittling staff, and "verbally assaulting" anyone who disagreed with him." (Kruger 2022, 3)

I have been in business meetings where that was the method of operation undertaken by the Senior Executive of the Division or in one case, the CEO. I have also served under senior officers who operated in this manner as well.

When they leave, or are fired, everyone rejoices. I witnessed a three-star general who operated that way become a two-star general one afternoon and then forced to leave or be court martialed before the end of the day. We all rejoiced in that one.

But that should never be in the church...ever.

Peter here calls the problem domineering leadership. In other words, shepherds leading by intimidation, gas lighting others, intimidating and threatening those in the flock to obtain what they are looking for, in most cases, compliance with what they want.

I have counseled those who have been subjected to this in the church. Yes, again, church hurt is real, and PTSD connected with it is also real. Spiritual bullying in the name of Jesus is simply not in the Bible. It starts with a misunderstanding of what Jesus and Peter meant. Throw in the sin nature and a lack of accountability and you have a recipe for disaster.

What I have seen in most cases is a common thread of a Senior Pastor who begins moving away from being accountable to others, ultimately becoming accountable to no one. I have seen this multiple times in the past and the outcome is the same. Wives do not count here as someone to be accountable to. The bullying warning signs are the same as you see in the business world, usually unhealthy levels of



turnover. If I had a manager working for me who had unhealthy levels of turnover, in most cases, the problem was the manager and not the job. The manager had become toxic and had to go.

There are churches showing the same symptoms today.

I heard one pastor, who was later fired along with some of his staff, begin to demand that the flock obey his increasingly crazy demands.

Yes, the turnover warning sign was indeed flashing beforehand as well.

He would point to Hebrews 13:17 and forget all about the second half of the verse.

Hebrews 13:17

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, **as those who will have to give an account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (ESV)

Here the writer of Hebrews makes it clear, those in leadership, are fully accountable to the Lord for what they do. Oops.

Let’s take one more look at what Peter said here.

1 Peter 5:2–3

“**shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.” (NASB 2020)

First there is a required understanding that the flock is not under you as the teacher, leader or elder. Remember, I earlier said we are all part of the flock, all of us. Peter does not say shepherd the flock under you, but **among you**. That difference is huge.

Here is the other part of all of this, why allow someone to do that to you? Why stay in the toxic environment? Trust me, I have been in more than one toxic church, and it is difficult to leave. At first it seems something is just a bit off but then there are the demands, the gas lighting and more. Counseling should never begin with the phrase “why are we always having to talk to you about...”

It was tough to leave the church I was saved in, but Ichabod was indeed written over the door of the church. The pastor was not domineering, the deacons were. When that happens, it is just a worldly social club with Bibles.

This is not all new either. In the fourth century AD, John Chrysostom wrote the following about pastors in his day. “Wrath, dejection, envy, contention, slanders, accusations, falsehood, hypocrisy, plots, ill-will towards such as have done no wrong, pleasure in the indecorous acts of one’s fellow ministers, sorrow over their successes, love of praises, lust of honour, (which most of all casts down the human soul headlong), doctrine which causes delight, sordid flatteries, ignoble time-servings, contempt for the poor, court to the rich, honours without reason, and favours hurtful, bringing perils to those who give and those who take them, servile fear, such as befits only the most worthless of slaves, abandonment of outspokenness, abundance of humility in appearance, but truth nowhere, rebukes and censures absent, or rather, directed against the low beyond measure, while to such as are surrounded with influence one dare not open his lips.” (Chrysostom 1866, 74-75)

Peter provides a solution for us.



1 Peter 5:3

“nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, **but by proving to be examples to the flock.**” (NASB 2020)

It is tough to be a hired hand, to be in it for the money only, to want to dominate others and be the spiritual kingpin when you are to be an example. When your life does not reflect the Holy Spirit’s operation in it, as fruit inspectors, we should be the first to warn.

Yes, I do indeed know how that can be when someone tells you that what you heard is not what you heard even though you did hear it and there is also other witnesses. It may be time to walk away.

In our celebrity culture of the 21st century, we see those who start off well, begin to change. “Ministry leaders and churches today are obsessively preoccupied with their reputation, influence, success, rightness, progressiveness, relevance, platform, affirmation, and power.” (DeGroat 2020, 7)

One thing I learned in business, there are those who are great as long as everything remains small. Growth is not always a good thing.

I worked for one company and as we grew, we had to replace the entire C Suite. The founders of the organization were oriented for small and growth, not for large and maintenance. Once the growth phase ended, it became maintenance. That requires a totally different mindset and provides a new set of problems.

The same happens in churches. Some churches grow and are healthy along the way because Jesus is the one everything is all about. But some grow more as a cult of personality or in the case of one movement, simply a platform for their music. If it is to achieve the mission, great.

Matthew 28:18–20

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” (NKJV)

Getting back to our text, the question, as we see the dangers and the warning being given here by Peter, is, how do we make certain as believers that we are not duped into following someone who does this or worse, find ourselves being the one who does this.

Or supporting someone who does.

We are to be examples to the flock. Those we teach, those we counsel, those in our group, those in our class, we are to be the example for them as to how to live. This is why we see the warning given to us in James 3.

James 3:1

“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” (NKJV)

As we become the examples for the flock, those we do life with, Peter then points us to our future.

1 Peter 5:4

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (NASB 2020)



Peter makes it clear that when we shepherd the flock, serving in ministry that He has called us into, one which we do with joy and love and eagerness because of Jesus and following Him, we wind up being examples to the flock as we do this. I love what it is He has called me to do, and I love being able to teach His word to you. I am also scared spitless the entire time as I am fully aware of the responsibility.

As we serve Him, we are promised here by Peter that the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, as He appears, that we will receive an unfading crown of glory.

How? By shepherding the flock as He would want us to. Doing the ministry He has called us to do willingly and joyfully according to His will and not worrying about any of the benefits we might obtain here on this planet but look forward to the ones He has for us. Not domineering others but loving and correcting as necessary as we are examples to all. All I want to hear is the following.

Matthew 25:21

““His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’” (CSB)

We are going to stop here and pick up next time as Peter shifts his focus to the sheep.



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