

SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER

PETER'S CHARGE TO CHURCH LEADERS

May 3, 2026

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1 PETER 5:1-5

¹ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

SUMMARY

In this passage, the Apostle Peter offers a direct and sobering charge to those entrusted with spiritual leadership. Elders are called to shepherd God's people willingly, eagerly, and humbly. Not for personal gain or power, but as examples to the flock. It reminds us all that leadership church leadership isn't about control or status, but care and service. At the same time, the congregation is called to respond with respect and humility, recognizing that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. This message challenges both leaders and members alike to embrace a posture of humility under Christ, the Chief Shepherd, who alone defines what faithful leadership looks like.

Elder

Discerning, Wise, Judge
Applying God's Word to every day life

Pastor

Nurturing Protector
Leading to spiritual food and protection

Bishop

Organized, Strategic Leader
Wielding God's resources for God's people

LEADING GOD'S PEOPLE

Defined by | Capability, Community, Message, Motivation

Doing the work of | Discerning Judge, Nurturing Protector, Strategic Leader

In the Manner of | Willingly, Eagerly, Exemplarily

Motivated By | Eternal Reward, Divine Pleasure

WHAT DO WE DO?

- If you can lead, don't hide... serve
- Leadership should serve...
 - as God defines,
 - with godly approaches
 - and for godly motives
- All should choose humility

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What various kinds of churches and church governments have you experienced?
 2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. In what ways do Elders shepherd a local church?
 3. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. What are the essential qualifications for serving as an Elder?
 4. In what ways do you see our church elders living as examples to follow?
 5. What are the traps identified by Peter that can lead church elders astray?
 6. Read 1 Peter 5:5. What does it mean to "be subject to the elders"?
 7. The application for all believers is to clothe ourselves with humility toward one another. What is the outcome of a church that is marked by humility?
 8. How does this passage apply to all forms of Christian leadership in the church?
 9. What was your takeaway from this week's message or passage?
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