

1 Peter 5:1-5

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

“...a primer for winning the war that really matters”

Fundamentals for a Healthy Church

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also 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 for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Pet. 5:1-5 NASB)

Today’s Objective Reminder: That in a healthy church, the elders will _____ and the flock will _____, all in a spirit of mutual _____. For suffering will come and test the foundation and strength of a church.

Fundamentals of a Healthy Church (1 Pet. 5:1-5)

I. In a healthy church, the elders will _____ the flock (5:1-4)

- The requirement for shepherding is a close _____ with Christ (5:1)
 - Focusing on the _____ of Christ is the motivation.
 - Focusing on the _____ makes an elder live in holiness and hope.
- The responsibility of shepherding is to exercise oversight with the _____. (5:2-3)
 - Not out of _____, but out of _____ and _____ (5:2)
 - Not to make _____, but rather to serve God with _____ zeal _____. (5:2)
 - Remember: The Flock belongs to _____! Lead by _____. (5:3)
- The reward for shepherding is the unfading _____. (5:4)
 - Remember: We are only _____, accountable to the _____.

“Therefore” why do Elders Suffer?

One must assume that Peter’s exhortations to the elders and younger men (v. 5) in this text are related to his teaching on suffering in the immediately preceding verses.

What is the relationship between leadership and suffering? Peter does not directly answer this question, but from other biblical texts we find a close relationship between leadership and suffering. Consider the following reasons elders suffer:

- The “fiery ordeal” in 4:12 is a _____ from God that begins with the house of God -- _____. (1 Pet. 4:17; Ezek. 9:4-6)
- Sinful natures _____ against God and thus _____ God’s leaders, who act in His behalf (see Exodus 16:7-8; 17:2).
- Elders are not necessarily appointed democratically nor do they rule democratically (see Numbers 16:1-50). Ultimately, elders are _____ appointed (Acts 20:28), and thus _____, to God (Hebrews 13:17). The elders therefore do not “represent” the church congregation as elected officials are supposed to represent their constituency. The elders represent God and are to act according to the directives of His Word, which may mean their decisions are not always popular.
- Because they lead, elders get the _____ when things seem to go wrong. Things are considered wrong when _____, _____, or _____ are required, or when _____ are encountered. Israel grumbled and complained at every little difficulty and grasped for every chance to indulge themselves (see Exodus 16:1-12; 17:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:13)
- Christian leaders appear to be weak, ineffective, and certainly unimpressive, because God chooses the _____ things to confound the _____ (Acts 4:13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 3:18-23),
 - because of the _____ they employ or refuse to employ (e.g. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2, 10-11),
 - and because of their _____ (e.g. 1 Corinthians 9).
 - They also do not _____ themselves (2 Corinthians 3:1f.; 5:12; 10:12, 18; 12:11).
 - How ironic that _____ is the badge of Paul’s ministry, and yet it is what caused many to _____ his apostleship for smooth-talking, easy-living false leaders (Philippians 1:12-18.)
- We all, to one extent or another, are to _____ of others (Galatians 6:2), but leaders seem to bear a _____ part of the burden (2 Corinthians 11:28-29).

- The _____ responsibilities of elders (and others) require as much privacy as possible, which means that all facts behind any action are not a matter of public knowledge. _____ may therefore result (Matthew 18:15-20).

II. In a healthy church, the flock will _____ to the elders (5:5a)

After Peter exhorts the leaders in verses 1-4, he now turns in verse 5 from the shepherds to the sheep.

“Likewise” throughout Peter’s epistle represents a _____ to a new group. (See 1 Pet. 2: 13, 18; 3:1, 7)

“Submit” (hupotasso), means to _____. Military term meaning line under their _____

Why do you believe Peter singles out “younger men?” (1 Tim. 3:6) Who do they represent?

- It’s a call for _____
- It’s a call for _____
- It’s a call to give deference to those in _____ leadership. The people of God must learn to submit themselves to these leaders. (1 Cor. 16:15; Eph. 5:21; 1 Thess. 5:12; Tit. 3:2; Heb. 13:7)

Would agree/disagree? American Christians tend not to understand the concept of submitting to spiritual authority.

III. In a healthy church, everyone will relate to one another in a spirit of _____ (5:5b)

Inseparably linked to and underlying a submissive attitude is a mind given to _____ (Ps. 25:9; Matt. 5:3-5; Eph. 4:1-2; Jam. 4:10).

Because, always the truly humble, and only the humble ---- _____.

“Clothe” literally means to tie something on oneself such as a _____ worn by servants. Here it describes figuratively covering oneself with an attitude of _____ as one submits to authorities over him.

Humility -- _____ (2 Cor. 3:5; 1 Cor. 4:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:7; Phil. 2:5-7)

Do you think Peter wrote this verse recalling Jesus’ washing of his feet? (John 13:3-17)

To reinforce his exhortation for humility, Peter quoted from Proverbs 3:34. How does this motivate us?