

# 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?