

1 PETER 5:1-7 “ELDERS SHEPHERDING THE BODY OF CHRIST”

- In this passage **Peter assumes that there will be leaders in the church.** He does not discuss how they are appointed or what their duties are. He is concerned, as so often in biblical discussions of leadership, with how they do their appointed duties. It is the style of the leadership that matters. Reading between the lines we can form some idea of what these leaders' duties were, but the main point is the way in which leadership is exercised. ¹

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

- “to exhort” – to motivate, correct, or reprove through Scripture
- This verse also proves that Peter never considered himself the “rock upon which the church shall be built.”
 - He’s just another Elder among many
 - Peter doesn’t even refer to himself as an Apostle here.
- Paul also “exhorted” Elders (of Ephesus) to do their anointed jobs:
 - Notice certain similarities to Peter’s exhortation

Acts 20:27-31

27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God (**1 Peter 5:2**) which He purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you (**1 Peter 5:8**), not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch (**1 Peter 5:9**), and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

- “Shepherd the flock”
- These are the very words Jesus told Peter:

John 21:15-19

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Feed My lambs.”**

16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Tend My sheep.”**

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved

¹Marshall, I. H. (1991). *1 Peter*. The IVP New Testament commentary series (1 Pe 5:1). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, **“Feed My sheep.”**

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.”

19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **“Follow Me.”**

- Every shepherd that wants to tend and feed God’s sheep must first know how to follow Jesus.

- **There will always be Shepherds that see their privilege as an opportunity to “fleece the flock”:**

Ezekiel 34:1-10

1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2 “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”

3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, *but* you do not feed the flock.

4 The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.

5 So they were scattered because *there was* no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered.

6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching *for them.*”

7 ‘Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

8 “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because *there was* no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock”—

9 therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD!

10 Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I *am* against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.”

3 nor as being lords 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 does not fade away.

- **Jesus has “entrusted” His earthly shepherds to tend and feed HIS flocks**
- **Elders are to be examples of the “Jesus Style” for their congregation**

John 13:15-17

15 **For I have given you an example**, that you should do as I have done to you.

16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

1 Timothy 4:12-16

12 Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers** in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Titus 2:7-8

7 **in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works**; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders.

Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and **be clothed with humility**, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

6 Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- How many young folk today are shopping for the “clothing of humility”?
- Humility is taught out of lives that reflect a clear understanding of God’s grace.

Psalm 33:18-22

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,

19 To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD; He *is* our help and our shield.

21 For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name.

22 Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their cry.