

Cornerstone Church

May 14, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Humility and Submission to God is a
Good Thing

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 5:5

1 Peter 5:5 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." (ESV)

Introduction

Main Point: The church is a safe place for all when elders lead like loving and patient fathers and younger men follow like loving and obedient sons.

In times of persecution, all believers will need a safe community, free from turmoil to run to in order to remain steadfast.

Review

1 Peter 5:1-4 [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. (ESV)

1. After giving instructions to pastor/elders on how to care for God's flock, Peter gives instructions to younger men on how to follow the leadership of

their pastor/elders. - **Likewise, you who are younger** (literally-young men), **be subject to the elders**

- a. Why do young men have a harder time being humble than older men? For example see, 1 Kings 12:6-11.
 - i. Young men feel their superior strength and think they are invincible.
 - ii. Young men have had fewer humbling life lessons that have mellowed them.
 - iii. Young men, especially teenagers, think they know more than their fathers (or mothers).
 - iv. Young men have a natural competitive nature that inclines them to argue.
 - v. Young men have an inflated sense of their own identity, not finding it in the Lord but in themselves (including the mistaken notion that their intellect, and strength came from within, not from without).
 - vi. Today's culture (and probably Peter's culture) venerates youth and denigrates seniors.
 - vii. Young women can share some of these traits, but in general, they are far less pronounced.
- b. Therefore, since pride is more pronounced in young men, they needed a specific command to respect their pastor/elders who have responsibility for their spiritual growth. That respect was demonstrated by obedience.
- c. This makes little sense in our current church environment. Rarely does a young man get confronted by a pastor/elder for not having private or family devotions.
- d. However, the early church, including the saints succeeding the apostles, and up to the Puritans and

even into the 20th Century, pastors went house to house to care individually for all the saints. **Acts 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. (ESV)**

- e. This submission is not absolute. Only when pastors speak truth from God's word is it absolute.
- f. This submission is essential to the unity of the church. Church coups and church fights are tools of Satan to destroy the unity which is intended to be an attraction to the world. **John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)**
- g. But, how should younger pastors treat older members? **1 Timothy 5:1-2 [1] Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, [2] older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. (ESV)** And,
- h. How should older men treat younger pastors? With respect due the office while waiting to see the younger pastor's life of godliness and patience. **1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (ESV)**

2. After giving younger men instructions about how to obey their pastor/elders, Peter instructs everyone in the family to put on a garment of humility. **Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."**

- a. Believers are already humble because the only way to enter into the Kingdom is through humble

repentance. **Matthew 18:3-4 [3] and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)**

- b. Believers maintain that humility by remembering the gospel and by knowing that God will take harsh measures against prideful people in this life.
- c. When believers focus on God's grace for their salvation and not their own works, and when they value each other as joint heirs of the grace of God, church fellowships will be warm, loving, forgiving, gracious, safe places that make enduring the hostility of the world easier.