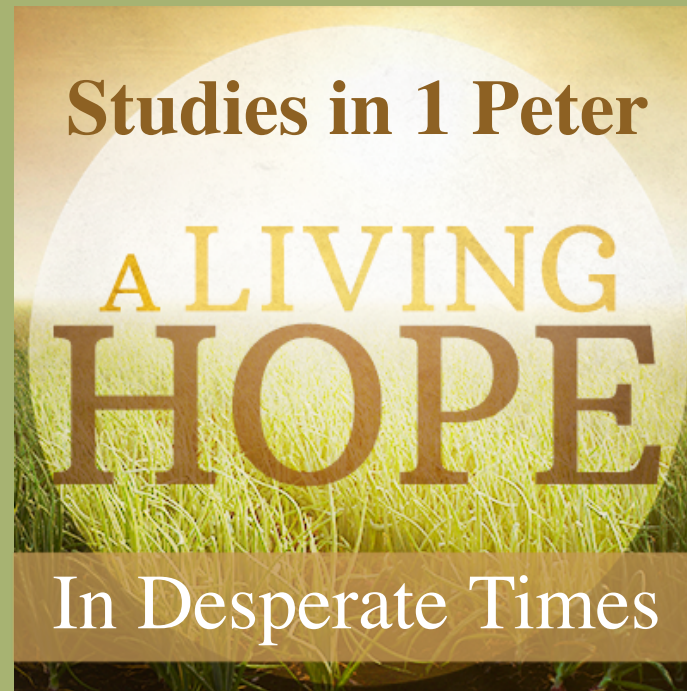


Sunday Morning in the Word



March 4, 2018



1 Peter 5:1-5

Biblical Background on Elders

1. The **practice** of New Testament eldership is grounded in the Old Testament **pattern** for leadership among God's people, Israel.

The practice of NT eldership is **grounded in the Old Testament pattern** for leadership among God's people, Israel.

Exodus 3:16

Go and assemble the **elders** of Israel and say to them:
The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has appeared to me and said: I have paid close attention to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt.

As the Apostles established leadership in the newly planted churches, they naturally took this OT pattern of Elders and made it the NT practice!

Acts 14:23

And when they **had appointed elders** for them in every **church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Biblical Background on Elders

1. New Testament eldership is grounded in the Old Testament pattern for leadership among God's people, Israel. The apostles took this OT pattern and made in the NT practice.
2. **The New Testament uses three different words to refer to elders.**

The NT uses three different words to refer to elders

Acts 20: 17

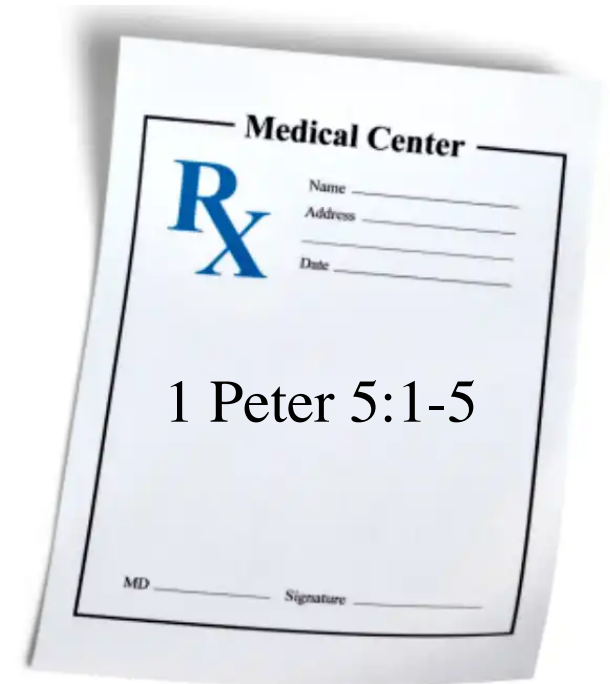
Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church to come to him.

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **care for** the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

The prescription Peter offers for a healthy church:

In a healthy church, **the elders** will shepherd and **the flock** will submit, **all** in a spirit of mutual humility.



The **elders** will shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4)

1. This task of elders is **URGENT!**

1 Peter 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...

1 Peter 4:17

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God...

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1. This task of elders is **URGENT!**

1 Peter 5:1

So I **exhort** (**urge, beg**) 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...

The elders will shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4)

1. This task of elders is **URGENT!**
2. This task of the elders is **CLEAR!**
 - The **WHAT?** of the task:

1 Peter 5:2

. . . **shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, **exercising oversight,**

The elders will shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4)

1 Timothy 5:17

Let the elders who **rule** well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in **preaching and teaching.**

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graph TD; Rule(rule) --> Feed(To FEED the flock); Preaching(preaching and teaching) --> Lead(To LEAD the flock);
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To FEED the
flock

To LEAD the flock

The elders will shepherd by **LEADING** the flock

1 Timothy 3:4-5

He must **manage** his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

1 Timothy 5:17

Let the elders who **rule...**

The elders will shepherd by **FEEDING** the flock

1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is **preaching and teaching**.

1 Timothy 3:2 Now the overseer must be . . . **able to teach**.

The elders will shepherd by **FEEDING** the flock

Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and **refute those who oppose it.**

A vital part of this responsibility to
FEED the flock is to guard the flock
from error!

A vital part of this responsibility to **FEED** the flock is to guard the flock from error!

Acts 20:29-31a

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. **Therefore be alert . . .**

The elders will shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4)

1. This task of elders is **URGENT!**
2. This task of the elders is **CLEAR!**
 - The **WHAT?** of the task . . . *shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,*
 - Elders are to **RULE/LEAD** and **TEACH/FEED** (guard) the flock!

The **HOW?** of the task of shepherding

1 Peter 5:2

shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, **not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;**

Elders need to shepherd with a **willing** heart!

The **HOW?** of the task of shepherding

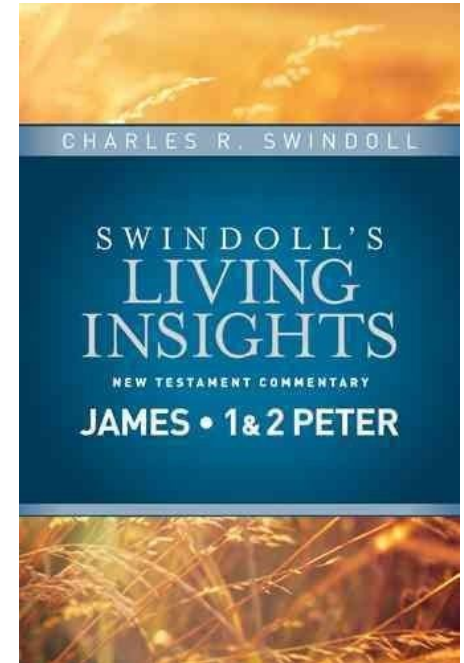
1 Peter 5:2

not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

Elders need to shepherd with an **eager** heart!

“God’s shepherds should have an attitude of self sacrificial zeal - not merely a willingness to serve but an authentic enthusiasm that springs from the heart. This principle flies in the face of the excessive professionalism common in the ministry today. Degrees, resumes, popularity, and references don’t qualify a person for ministry. Rather, an eagerness to serve - occasionally at great personal cost - is a vital ingredient found in a well-rounded Shepherd and well grounded ministry.”

(Chuck Swindoll)



The **HOW?** of the task of shepherding

Elders need to shepherd with a willing heart!

Elders need to shepherd with an eager heart!

Elders need to shepherd with **a servant's heart!**

1 Peter 5:3

**... not domineering over those in your charge,
but being examples to the flock.**

The **HOW?** of the task of shepherding

Matthew 20:25-27

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over** them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **26** It shall **not be so among you.** But whoever would be great among you must be your **servant**, **27** and whoever would be first among you must be your **slave.**

The elders will shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4)

This task of elders is **URGENT!**

This task of the elders is **CLEAR!**

- The **WHAT?** of the task . . . *shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,*
- Elders are to rule/lead and teach/feed (guard) the flock!
- The **HOW?** of the task . . . with a willing, eager and servant's heart!

The elders will shepherd (1 Peter 5:1-4)

This task of elders is:

- Urgent!
- Clear!
- **Very worthwhile!**



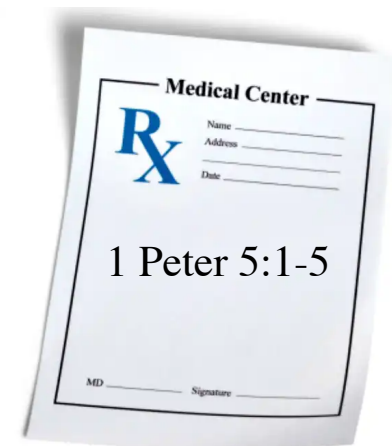
This task of elders is very worthwhile!

1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

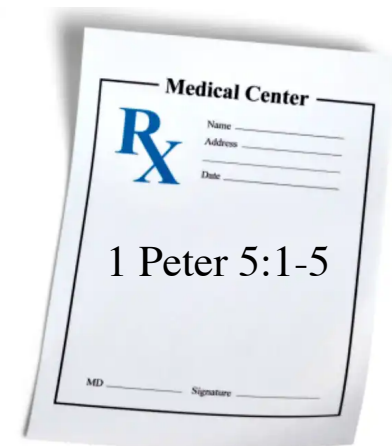
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The flock will submit (to the shepherding of the elders)

1 Peter 5:5a

In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.

The flock will submit (to the shepherding of the elders)

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In the same way, you who are **younger**, be subject to the elders.

The prescription Peter offers for a healthy church:

In a healthy church, the elders will shepherd and the flock will submit, **all in a spirit of mutual humility.**



All in a spirit of mutual humility

1 Peter 5:5a

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.
Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another,

What is **humility** is NOT!

Humility is **not** self deprecation –
in which a person gets down on
himself or herself and says,
“I am a loser! I can’t do this!
I am just a humble nobody!”



What is **humility**?

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.

So humility is being aware of our own insufficiency while trusting in Christ's all-sufficiency!

The elders are to shepherd and the flock is to submit . . .
“all in a spirit of mutual humility.”

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.”**

Have you ever received the gift of
grace he offers to you in Jesus
Christ?



Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death, but **the gift** of God is
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



And who among your network of relationships needs to hear this good news about Jesus Christ?

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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