



# EKKLESIA

*Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide*



---

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:1-7**

**SERIES:** Ekklesia

**TITLE:** The Church Has a Leader: The Chief Shepherd

**BIG IDEA:** The Church submits to the shepherding and care of Christ, the true, ultimate, chief shepherd of His people.

---

## **SUMMARY**

Peter is encouraging his fellow elders to continue in their service and suffering in shepherding the flock of God. In this encouragement, Peter shows clearly the true leader of the church is Jesus Christ. The earthly leaders are merely under-shepherds who are to serve God's people with humility and non-compulsive leadership for the care and encouragement of the people. God's desire is for the health and care of His people. He clearly shows that the churches are to be led by a plurality of elders. There is a singular leader, His name is Jesus Christ. All other leaders, like Peter, are "fellow elders," not solo leaders. This does two things: it ensures the health and care of the flock, and it ensures that a singular person other than Christ is exercising unchecked authority over others. This is one of the many ways God practically cares for His people.

“Under the Law of Moses, the sheep died for the shepherd;  
but under grace, the Good Shepherd died for the sheep.”

**Warren W. Wiersbe**

---

## **TEXT**

**1 Peter 5:1-7**

**5** 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: <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> 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.”

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

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: <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

---

## **1. GOD PROVIDES SHEPHERDS, NOT TYRANTS.**

- What is the difference in a shepherd and a tyrant?
- What is the significance of Peter calling himself a “fellow elder?”
- Why is it important to see Christ as the only chief shepherd and other elders/pastors as under-shepherds?
- What does Peter’s instruction to the under-shepherds tell us about how God wants His church cared for?
- In what ways does the church care for each other?
- How does God use the church and its leadership to care for the people?

*Application Question: Who are you subject to?*

<sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

---

## **2. HUMILITY IS THE GARMENT OF THE CHURCH.**

- What does it mean to clothe ourselves with humility?
- What does it look like to be clothed in arrogance?
- Where is it hardest for you to practice humility?
  - Receiving counsel
  - Yielding preference
  - Admitting wrong
  - Serving without recognition
  - Serving others before ourselves
  - Something else?
- How do pride and anxiety reinforce each other?
- What does it mean to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God?

*Application Question: Are you clothed in humility?*

casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

---

### **3. OUR CHIEF SHEPHERD PROTECTS US FROM THE WOLVES.**

- When anxiety hits, what do you do first?
  - o What does this say about our trust in the Lord?
- What situations are underneath the feeling of anxiety?
- How does humble submission to God practically address anxiety?
- What is the connection between casting our anxieties on Christ and His care for us?
- What is the danger in self-shepherding and attempting to fight our battles for ourselves instead of putting those in God's mighty hands?

*Application Question: What are you attempting to handle that only God can handle?*

---

## Head / Heart / Hands

- What does this text teach me?
- What does it tell me to feel?
- What does it tell me to do?