

## A Study of 1 Peter: A Call to Hope and Holiness

God's Care, Satan's Hatred | 1 Peter 5 | 6.09.19

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The following is taken from the GBC Handbook: There have been three major forms of church government developed and practiced throughout the past two centuries of Christianity.

1. Episcopalian Church Government - (Greek, *episkopos*) meaning bishop, who is the key figure in this system. He has oversight over all of the congregations in an area called a diocese. The system is followed by the Roman Catholic Church and Anglican (England) Episcopalian (America) Church.
2. Presbyterian Church Government - (Greek, *presbyteros*, Elder Rule) "Elder" is the title used in the New Testament and refers to those in leadership position. This form is followed in various ways by a wide variety of churches. On a local level this stands for the governing of the church by the presbyters, or the elders.
3. Congregational Church Government - (Pastor/Elder Led | Congregational Rule). Note the transition used from elder rule to elder led. The title "pastor" is the Baptist-friendly term; however pastor, bishop and elder are terms used to describe and define the same office.

Since all believers are regenerate (born-again), thereby being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, all are able to receive guidance from Christ. The individual priesthood of the believer is the scriptural teaching that everyone in Christ has equal access to God's throne room of grace and mercy (**Hebrews 4:14-16**). The Pastor(s) is/are to lead and direct the congregation into spiritually-minded decision-making. Pastors are to exercise an entrusted measure of authority to biblically influence the congregation, but in the final analysis, the highest human authority is vested within the body, not the leadership.

"**Considerable weight** is to be given to the judgment (counsel) of men and women who live near to God, and in most instances their verdict will not be a mistaken one. Yet this appeal is neither final nor infallible, and is only to be estimated in proportion to the intelligence and piety of those consulted." C.H. Spurgeon

**1 Peter 5:1-4** *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: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd (Feed – KJV) the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** *And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

**Hebrews 13:17** *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

**1 Peter 5:5-7** 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." <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

**God's grace** is the desire and ability GOD provides to believers through the ministry of the **Holy Spirit**, thereby empowering believers to remain faithful in obedience regardless of the circumstances. **Grace actually changes what we want to match what God wants.** Our desires start to line up with God's desires. **The ministry of the Holy Spirit** is to take truths about Jesus Christ and make them clear to our mind and real to our heart in such a way that we **willingly, completely, and joyfully submit to Him.**

1. God's hand of direction 2. God's hand of discipline 3. God's hand of deliverance

**Characteristics that reveal humility in our life:**

1. We value the counsel and reproof of those in spiritual authority.
2. We apply God's Word and have time alone with God to examine our heart.
3. We take full responsibility for our sin regardless of how we were provoked or tempted.
4. We confess our sin to God and to those we sin against.
5. Jesus Christ is priority one in my life; I seek to honor Him in my life choices.
6. We are *not* habitually late for appointments, valuing the time of others.
7. We show spiritual concern for fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
8. We do not defend sinful attitudes and actions that are called into question.
9. We are willing to have spiritual accountability.
10. We enjoy talking about our relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 34:18** The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves (delivers) such as have a contrite spirit.

**John 10:10-11** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. <sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

**1 Peter 2:25** For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**1 Peter 5:8-9** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**1 Corinthians 7:5**

1. Satan influences us into sexual sins (1 Cor.7:5), 2. Satan uses un-forgiveness in our heart to gain advantage over us (2 Cor. 11:14, Eph. 4.27), 3. Satan sets up men to become pastors (2 Cor. 11:14), 4. Satan places false believers within the church (Matt. 13), 5. Satan is the father behind all lies (John 8:44), 6. Satan has methods, laid out plans of deception to draw us away from loving Christ (Eph. 6:11), 7. Satan uses pride as a tool to have us spiritually fall (1 Tim. 3:6), 8. Satan dulls our insight as means to keep us from Christ (2 Tim. 2:26), 9. Satan blinds the minds of the unsaved to keep them from seeing the glory of Christ and coming to salvation (2 Cor. 4:4).