

1 Peter 5

I. ¹ To the elders among you,

A. I appeal as

1. a fellow elder
2. and a witness of Christ's sufferings
3. who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

B. ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—

1. not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be;
2. not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;
3. ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.
4. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

II. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders.

III. All of you,

A. clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,

1. because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."
2. ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore,
 - a) under God's mighty hand,
 - b) that he may lift you up in due time.
 - c) ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

B. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind.

1. Your enemy the devil

- a) prowls around
 - (1) like a roaring lion
 - (2) looking for someone to devour.
- b) ⁹ Resist him,
 - (1) standing firm in the faith,
 - (2) because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

2. ¹⁰ And the God

- a) of all grace,
- b) who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
- c) after you have suffered a little while,
 - (1) will himself restore you
 - (2) and make you
 - (a) strong,
 - (b) firm
 - (c) and steadfast.
 - (3) ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- IV. ¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother,**
- A. I have written to you briefly,**
- 1. encouraging you**
 - 2. and testifying that this is the true grace of God.**
 - 3. Stand fast in it.**
- B. ¹³ She who is in Babylon,**
- 1. chosen together with you,**
 - 2. sends you her greetings,**
- C. and so does my son Mark.**
- D. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.**
- E. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.**

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Conceptual Outline

I. Peter's Appeal to Elders

- A. As fellow elder, eye witness of Christ's Suffering, & Sharer of future glory**
- B. Caring & watchful shepherds' motivation**
 - 1. not out of obligation but willingly**
 - 2. not out of greed by eager to serve**
 - 3. not controlling by modeling**
 - 4. motivated by eternal reward from the Chief Shepherd**

II. Appeal to younger believers to submit

III. Appeal to all

- A. Be humble**
 - 1. because God favors the humble**
 - 2. trusting God to care**
- B. Be alert**
 - 1. the enemy is active, fierce, and intending to kill**
 - 2. resisting the enemy is a worldwide effort of all believers**
 - 3. God is sovereign in His grace and eternal glory. He will restore & sustain us in His Power.**

IV. Closing Comments & Greetings

- A. Purposes of the authors**
 - 1. to encourage**
 - 2. testify God's grace**
 - 3. to stand firm**
- B. Greeting from the rest of the Body**
- C. Benediction**

Study Questions:

- 1) In what capacity do you serve in the Body of Christ? What motivates you to serve? If someone close to you were to describe your leadership or ministry style, what 3 words might they use? If someone who dislike you, were to describe your leadership or ministry style, what 3 words might they use?

- 2) In this final chapter of his letter, Peter makes a few appeals. His first is to the elders of the church.
 - a) What does he appeal as? What is the significant of his identify to his appeal?
 fellow elder, witness of Christ's sufferings, sharer of the glory to be revealed. He's humbled himself from apostle to identify with them as elders. His emphasis as witness of Christ's sufferings makes what's he's testifying (the truth of the gospel and of God's grace) much more personal, real, and powerful. His last identity of a sharer of glory not only points to the hope and glory we'll receive but also speaks of the fact that he also shares in the suffering of Christ as in 4:13 and therefore, he can relate to them in their situation.

 - b) What is his appeal to the elders? Why does the flock need care & watch? Why does he use the analogy of shepherd and flock?
 Be shepherds caring for and watching over the flock. Care is necessary when people are in need or in pain. Watching over is needed when people are unsafe, in danger, or unable to do so themselves. That's the condition people of the church are in especially if we consider the enemy that Peter will talk about later in v.8.
 Jesus is the Chief Shepherd tending sheep who are very helpless, blind, with tendency to stray and become easy preys to other animals. Shepherding has a special significant to Peter as he was charged by Jesus in John 21 to tend His flock. Now Peter, in his old age, is passing the torch to the next generation. Peter is drawing a very beautiful picture of how Jesus tends the flock throughout generation by using under-shepherds.

 - c) What should be the elders' motivation? Peter makes several contrasts here. What are they and why are the other motivations not fitting for leaders of the Church?
 Willing serve as role models looking for the crow of glory as reward from Christ. Not as obligation but by choice, not motivated by greed but eager to serve; not control by power by serve as role models. Obligation is not fitting for a lover of Christ. Greed & power belongs to this world. Followers of Christ need to learn from His example of meekness and invest treasures in heaven.

- 3) Let's make a list of the nouns, adjectives, verbs & their contrasting nouns, verbs, & adjectives to get an idea of what Peter is drawing as the picture of an elder.

Nouns	Contrasting Nouns	Adjectives	Contrasting Adjectives	Verbs	Contrasting Verbs
Elders	Gain	eager	dishonest	share	must

Shepherds				Care	Pursuing
Witness				Watch	Lording
examples				Willing	
				Serve	
				Receive	
				Being, be	
				Entrusted	

The picture is a loving, caring, and alert under-shepherd who serves Christ and His Body whole-heartedly, not counting the cost aiming for a reward that will not decay.

- 4) With the elaborate charge to the elders, Peter's appeal to the younger is much simpler.
- What is it? Is it all that simple? Why? & Why not?
Submit. Not a simple task but it's willing & motivated by love for Christ & His Church.
 - Do you recall elsewhere in the letter he mentions the phrase "in the same way? What "way" is he talking about?
3:1; 3:5; 3:7; Christ's way of self-sacrifice, humility, and submission
- 5) After appealing to specific groups, Peter appeals to all. What 2 things does he ask them to do?
- Humility & alertness
- Peter offers to reasons for humility. What are they? What does humility has to do with anxiety? Peter uses the word "clothe," what does clothing with humility mean?
Humility will gain God's favor, humility is trusting our goal/ambition in God's care and allowing Him to work out His plans in our lives in His timing. In doing so, we trust and depend on Him completely turning over our care and anxiety to Him. Humility relieves us of anxious pursuing of gains and frees us to seek God's favor.
 - The second appeal to all is to be alert and sober minded (v.8). Why are they important? How does Peter describe our enemy? How are we to handle our enemy?
Our enemy the devil is active, powerful, fierce, and deadly. We must be spiritually alert to resist him and stand firm.
 - Besides being mentally alert, we are to actively resist the devil to stand firm (v.9). In his warning about the devil, Peter reminded them of a few realities? What are they? Why are these facts important to keep in mind in the battle with the devil?
other believers - we're not alone in the struggle, believers everyone are united in Christ and His suffering.
God of grace - His grace & power (v.11) is sufficient for our pain, God is sovereign regardless of how fierce the enemy may be
His eternal glory in Christ - awaits us in victory
- 6) Why do you think Peter emphasized these appeals to the church? What could be going on in the church at that time requiring the emphasis? Share about your experience as a leader or a follower in the church where these appeals were relevant.

Throughout church history, there are tensions in the church that disrupt our unity. This is not new. Peter's appeal is for us to humble ourselves and recognize the schemes of our enemy so that we do not fall into his traps.

- 7) As Peter concludes his letter in vs. 12-14, he restated the purposes of the letter. What are they? He also mentions a number of people. Who are they? What picture is he drawing here? His benediction includes 2 components. What are they? How do they reinforce the message Peter is trying to impress on his readers? If you were to conclude this letter, what would you say as a benediction?

His purposes are to encourage the suffering saints, reassure them of God's grace so that they can stand firm and not lose heart.

Silas, Mark, and the church in Babylon. The entire church is together, undergoing the same struggle and awaiting the same victory. They are not alone.

Love of one another - expressing love and affection to one another offers strength and encouragement even under difficult circumstances.

Peace - inner peace from Christ cannot be taken away by human, pain, or suffering.