

1 Peter
Part Eight: Shepherds and Sheep
Pastor Rick Henderson March 25-26, 2023

1 PETER 5:1-4 *To the elders among you, I appeal **as a fellow elder** and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **Be shepherds** of God's flock that is under your care, **watching over** them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

QUESTION: If Peter was an apostle, why did he refer to himself as an elder?

In the New Testament, **MULTIPLE** terms are used to describe a **SINGULAR** position.

- **πρεσβυτερος** (Elder/Priest)
- **επισκοπος** (Overseer/Bishop)
- **ποιμην** (Shepherd/Pastor)

1 PETER 5:2a ***Be shepherds** of God's flock that is under your care, **watching over** them...*

QUESTION: Why did these interchangeable terms become titles for different positions?

1 PETER 5:2-3 ***Be shepherds** of God's flock that is under your care, **watching over** them—not because you must, but because you are **willing**, as God wants you to be; **not pursuing dishonest gain**, but **eager to serve**; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but **being examples** to the flock.*

Leadership is a **DESTINATION** of discipleship.

1 PETER 5:4 *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

Shepherdless sheep are **SCATTERED** sheep. And scattered sheep are **VULNERABLE** sheep.

The first qualities that a priest or bishop ought to possess is that he must purify his soul entirely of ambition for the office...It is indeed a terrible temptation to covet this honor. And in saying this, I do not contradict St. Paul but entirely agree with what he says. What are his words? "If a man seeks the office of a bishop, he desires a good work." What is terrible is to desire the absolute authority and power of the bishop but not the work itself. —John Chrysostom

MARK 10:42-45 *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and **whoever wants to be first must be slave of all**. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

THE WORLD'S WAY: Leaders take **POWER** and serve **THEMSELVES**.

JESUS' WAY: Leaders take **RESPONSIBILITY** and serve **OTHERS**.

We don't **ASCEND** to leadership in the church; we **DESCEND** into it.

1 PETER 1:5-7 *In the **same way**, you who are younger, **submit** yourselves to your elders. **All of you**, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." **Humble** yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

1 PETER 5:8-11 *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

We can't take **JESUS** seriously and not take **SATAN** seriously.

1 PETER 5:12-14 *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. **Stand fast in it**. She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

To this remote and underdeveloped region, the apostle Peter writes his letters to Christians who he addresses as "visiting foreigners and resident aliens", scattered across the vast reaches of Asia Minor. We may surmise that, in no small part because of this letter and the faithfulness of those who received it, well-established churches flourished in all five of these regions by AD 180. Their bishops attended the great councils of the second through the fourth centuries, where the doctrines were forged that Christians hold dear today. —Karen H. Jobes

You can't know who will **STAND WITH** Christ tomorrow because you resolved to **STAND FAST** today.