

LIVING IN EXILE

¹ Peter 5:1-4— Elders Among You

June 5, 2016

So I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God that is among you... **-1 Peter 5:1-2**

I. AN EXHORTATION FOR ELDERS

- It is likely that Peter turns now to elders because he has just spoken about a judgment that comes from the house of God (vs. 17; Ezekiel 9).
- Peter was himself an elder, more than that, he exercises authority over the elders as an apostle of Christ (Mark 3:13-19; 2 Pet. 1:16-18; Gal. 2:8).
- “Elder” or “Overseer” is a title; “Shepherd” is a function or responsibility (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1).

A. THE FUNCTION OF ELDERS

1. Shepherd the flock (care for them)
2. Oversee the flock (watch over them)

B. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ELDERS

1. Serve willingly/eagerly (that’s how God wants it)
2. Don’t seek shameful gain
3. Don’t be domineering (be humble)
4. Be examples to the flock

C. THE REWARD FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- When the Chief Shepherd (Jesus) appears you will receive a crown of glory.

II. A RESPONSE TO THE MINISTRY OF ELDERS

- Humbly submit to Christ-like leadership (Eph. 5:21; Heb. 13:17).
- Pray for your leaders (Heb. 13:18).

KNOW: Eldership is an oft-misunderstood role in the body of Christ, but an indispensable part of God’s design for the church.

DO: Submit to the Chief Shepherd, and to his under-shepherds

Suggested Reading:

Biblical Eldership, by Alexander Strauch

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 5:1-4

1. Why are elders necessary in the modern church?
2. How do we combat the stereotype that has developed over the term “elder,” particularly among non-believers/unchurched whose only understanding comes from movies (generally stodgy old men who rob free-thinking people of their joy).
3. Please read 1 Timothy 3:1. Is it okay to “want” to be an elder? How then do we determine if someone should be an elder, and who determines that?
4. What is the “crown of glory” that Peter talks about? Read 2 Timothy 4:8. Are these the same crowns with different names, or different crowns? What do you think?
5. What do we do if an elder does not exhibit the traits that Peter talks about here?
6. How does this passage apply to you if you are not an elder?