

1 Peter 5:1-14

Guidelines for People in a Local Church

Introduction

In His closing chapter (chap. 5), Peter gives guidelines for people in a local church.

He begins with the “shepherds” or “pastors” of the local church, and then addresses all the people who attend a local church.

Peter assures us that through the grace of Jesus Christ, our faith can be steadfast and we can be examples of obedient Christlikeness, even under the most difficult of circumstances.

1 Peter 5:1-14

ESV **1 Peter 5:1** 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:

² 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;

1 Peter 5:1-14

³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

⁵ 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."

1 Peter 5:1-14

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,

⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:1-14

⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:1-14

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

¹³ She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

¹⁴ Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Guidelines for People in a Local Church

God's Pattern for elders (pastors) 5:1-4

- The Mandate (1-2a)

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:

² shepherd the flock of God that is among you,

Guidelines for People in a Local Church

- “shepherd” – to feed spiritually; to care for.
- “the flock of God” – the flock belongs to God – not to the shepherd.
- There are dangers that the “flock” faces.
- Paul speaks of these dangers in Acts 20:28-29

Guidelines for People in a Local Church

Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”

1 Peter 5:1-14

God's Pattern for elders (pastors) 5:1-4

- The Mandate (1-2a)
- The Motive (2b)

exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

- “eagerly” – with zeal, energy, and enthusiasm for the job.

1 Peter 5:1-14

God's Pattern for elders (pastors) 5:1-4

- The Mandate (1-2a)
- The Motive (2b)
- The Manner (3)

³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:1-14

- “examples to the flock.” Paul could write,
- “join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”
(Phil. 3:17)
- “We gave an example to you so that you might imitate us” (2 Thess. 3:9), or even
- “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1; cf. Acts 20:35).

1 Peter 5:1-14

God's Pattern for elders (pastors) 5:1-4

- The Mandate (1-2a)
- The Motive (2b)
- The Manner (3)
- The Reward (4)

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:1-14

- The reward a pastor will receive will be given him at the 2nd coming of Jesus.
- When the chief Shepherd appears, he will reward his faithful under-shepherds (pastors).

1 Peter 5:1-14

God's Pathway to Spiritual Maturity 5:5-6

- The need of the younger to submit to the Elders (5a)

5^a Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders

- By Jewish reckoning, anyone under 30 is in the “younger” category.

Jewish categories of Age and Responsibilities

- “(1) At **five** to Scripture, (2) **ten** to Mishnah, (3) **thirteen** to religious duties, (4) **fifteen** to Talmud, (5) **eighteen** to the wedding canopy, (6) **twenty** to responsibility for providing for a family, (7) **thirty** to fullness of strength, (8) **forty** to understanding, (9) **fifty** to counsel, (10) **sixty** to old age, (11) **seventy** to ripe old age, (12) **eighty** to remarkable strength, (13) **ninety** to a bowed back, and (14) at a **hundred**— he is like a corpse who has already passed and gone from this world.”

(Jacob Neusner, *The Mishnah : A New*

Translation (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1988), 689.)

1 Peter 5:1-14

God's Pathway to Spiritual Maturity 5:5-6

- The need of the younger to submit to the Elders (5a)
- The necessity for all believers to demonstrate humility (5b-6a)

^{5b} Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

^{6a} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God.

1 Peter 5:1-14

- “humility” - indicates a servant’s attitude toward others.
- It is something the NT values highly, in contrast to either Judaism or Hellenistic culture, due to the example of Jesus.
- **1 Peter 3:8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

1 Peter 5:1-14

God's Pathway to Spiritual Maturity 5:5-6

- The need of the younger to submit to the Elders (5a)
- The necessity for all believers to demonstrate humility (5b-6a)
- The confident expectation of God's elevating help (6b)

^{6b} so that at the proper time he may exalt you

1 Peter 5:1-14

^{6b} so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

- God will lift up the suffering, submissive believers in His wisely appointed time.
- It is the Lord Jesus Himself who promised, “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11).

1 Peter 5:1-14

Scriptural Steps to Take when Dealing with Difficulties 5:7-11

- **Transfer all your care to Jesus (7)**

⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
- “casting” – like a person throws a blanket over an animal.
- “anxieties” - can include all discontentment, discouragement, despair, questioning, pain, suffering, and whatever other trials they encounter.

1 Peter 5:1-14

Scriptural Help in Dealing with Difficulties 5:7-11

- Transfer all you care to Jesus 5:7
- Be watchful and vigilant to remain steadfast in the faith (8-9a)

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

^{9a} Resist him, firm in your faith,

- “faith” – remaining firm in your trust in God.

1 Peter 5:1-14

Scriptural Help in Dealing with Difficulties 5:7-11

- **Know that your afflictions are not unusual (9b)**
^{9^b} knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:1-14

Scriptural Help in Dealing with Difficulties 5:7-11

- Understand why God lets difficulties come (10)

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

- “grace” – the love and mercy of God that enables the desire and power to do God’s will.

1 Peter 5:1-14

“will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

- Peter describes the promise of that earthly, sanctifying process of spiritual maturation by God with four nearly synonymous words.
- “restore” – to perfect or to bring to wholeness
- “confirm” - to set fast
- “strengthen” - to make sturdy
- “and establish” - to lay as a foundation

1 Peter 5:1-14

“will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

- These terms all speak of the strength and immovability, which God wants to bring into the life of all believers as they face spiritual battles.

1 Peter 5:1-14

Scriptural Help in Dealing with Difficulties 5:7-11

- In the midst of difficulties, keep a praiseful and trusting attitude (11)

11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen

- God is sovereign and therefore in control of all the events in your life as you walk with Him.

1 Peter 5:1-14

Closing assurance and Personal Greetings 5:12-14

- Silvanus help Peter write this letter (12a)**

^{12a} By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you,

1 Peter 5:1-14

Closing assurance and Personal Greetings 5:12-14

- Peter has two goals for his letter (12b)

^{12b} exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

1. To let them know that “this” (his letter) is really true and a gift (a “grace”) from God.
2. To encourage them to stand firm in the truth he has shared with them in this letter.

1 Peter 5:1-14

Closing assurance and Personal Greetings 5:12-14

- Personal greetings from the Church at Rome and from John Mark (13)**

¹³ She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

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Closing assurance and Personal Greetings 5:12-14

- Demonstrate Christian love for one another (14a)**

^{14a} Greet one another with the kiss of love.

- Closing benediction (14b)**

^{14b} Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

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