

# A Church Ready to Weather the Storm

Part 2

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:1-5

Three essential characteristics which every church needs in order to faithfully endure suffering

## 1. Elders who shepherd (vv 1-4)

- Must know the flock
- Must feed the flock
- Must lead the flock
- Must protect the flock
- Must do so willingly
- Must do so with an eagerness to serve
- Must do so as an example

## 2. A flock who is subject to the elders (v 5a)

- Who is the flock, and who are the elders?
  - “elder” is the same word used previously to reference the office of elder/shepherd/overseer; in this verse it means the same thing, not “someone who is older”
  - “younger” could mean the young men, but probably means “you who are new” – in contrast with the “elders” who have been Christians longer
  - 1 Corinthians 16:15-16
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
  - Hebrews 13:17
- What does “subject” mean?
  - Military term
  - Instruction directed to the flock
    - Not directed to the elder to make the flock submit
    - Follows the pattern of instruction elsewhere in the Bible
      - Matthew 7:1-5 – start with the sin in your own life
  - Does not mean those in the flock can’t correct the elders when necessary
    - 1 Timothy 5:19-20

### 3. A congregation clothed in humility (v 5b)

- Emphasis falls upon each individual in the church
- Humility is seeing yourself as God sees you
- Humility is necessary to lead well, to be subject, to follow Christ
- “clothed” – wrapping with an apron or towel
- Matthew 18:1-4 – humility is necessary to enter heaven
- Humility is always expressed in the context of relationships – “humility toward one another”
- Proverbs 30:34
  - God opposes the proud – even Christians