

Peter sets himself up as an example for these men as he calls them to set themselves up as examples for those around them. The promise of future glory bookends this unit of Scripture (“a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed” in 5:1 and “you will receive the unfading crown of glory” in 5:4).

2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,

Who should lead God’s people? Who should provide leadership in the local church? The answer is men who hold the office of elder/overseer/pastor.

The command to the pastors/shepherds in this passage is to “shepherd” God’s sheep (people). It is the same word translated as “tend” in John 21:16 when Jesus said to Peter, “Tend my sheep.” The same word is translated “care for” in Acts 20:28.

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. 18 And when they came to him, he said to them:... “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.” (Acts 20:17-18 and 28)

God’s people are expected to be active members of a local church; it’s assumed in the NT. Both Christian water baptism and local church membership are a given for every Christian in the book of Acts and in the NT letters. And His leadership plan for His local churches is to have Christ-like pastors leading us.

We’re all sheep, and sheep need shepherds. We all need Christ-like shepherding, especially in times of suffering. Our souls are to receive their care. We learn from their flesh-and-blood example.

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

How and **why** should pastors lead God’s people?

- A pastor must **w**_____ **o**_____ for the spiritual welfare of the people of the church he leads. He must “exercise oversight.” He needs to be alert and attentive to their spiritual needs. He must be well aware of their spiritual condition so that he can care well for them.

17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17)

- Elders/overseers/pastors who focus on **f**_____ God’s people by preaching and teaching should invest significant time as they prep and then serve wholesome spiritual meals. The Bible is always on the menu. It is the Word of God that nourishes the souls of God’s people.
- Pastors should **not** be motivated from the **o**_____ but from the **i**_____. They should serve **gladly**, not **grudgingly**.
- Pastors should **not** be motivated by **m**_____. They should work **eagerly**, not **greedily**. They are usually paid, but they must not be in ministry for the money. Money must not drive them.
- Pastors should **not** be motivated by **p**_____. They must not lead with **intimidation** but by **example**. Bullying, coercion,

manipulation, or micromanagement are not how Christ-like pastors/shepherds lead. They do have God-given authority over God's people whom the Holy Spirit has made them overseers, but they lead those people gently and patiently. They must continually set the example for the people of the church, and this requires being among (spending time with) the people of the church.

Ezekiel 34:1-6 describes men who did the opposite of what the spiritual leaders of God's people are supposed to do. The picture is dark. The contrast is stark. God's pastors/shepherds should share His heart and always recognize that the people whom they serve have an ultimate Shepherd and Overseer of their souls (2:25).

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

What reward will faithful pastors/shepherds receive? An endless, unfading reward from the Lord is in their future. They, like Peter, will participate in (share in) that upcoming and unending glory.

These verses not only instruct and encourage the men who are currently serving as pastors and the men who want to become pastors. They should also shape the expectations of the members of local churches. You should expect and encourage your pastor(s) to do these things in these ways and for these reasons. You should pray that your pastor(s) will be faithful in these things. Remember that these men "are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account." (Hebrews 13:17b) You can use these verses to guide your prayers for your pastor(s).

All Scripture quotations taken from the ESV.

Shepherdology (for Suffering Sheep)

1 Peter 5:1-4



Who should lead God's hurting people, and **how** and **why** should they lead them? Who should provide leadership for God's persecuted people, and what should it look like? What is God's leadership plan for His local churches? These four verses succinctly answer these questions.

In 5:1, Peter pivots. He turns his attention to a specific group of men who are among the suffering saints to whom he's been writing. The encouragement and instruction that Peter sends to these men comes in the setting of suffering. See 4:12-19 and the word οὖν (commonly translated as "Therefore" or "So") in 5:1.

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:

Peter **i**_____ with those whom he **i**_____, and he **e**_____ what he **e**_____. Peter has great authority as an apostle (1:1) and has the right to command these men, but as he does so, Peter does not choose to put himself above or apart from them but among them. Peter writes as a fellow shepherd and a fellow sufferer **and** as a fellow partaker in the glory that's coming.