

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 24TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 PETER

ELDERS AND LEADERS (1 PETER 5:1-4)

ELDER

Peter was an apostle but also identified himself as an elder, a leader in the church. Being an elder is not a position of hierarchy among Christians; it is a role of leadership.

- Although Peter was addressing elders specifically, **his admonitions are for every spiritual leader in the church.**

SHEPHERD GOD'S FLOCK

As the pastor surrenders to God's will, they will serve God's flock with purpose. A good shepherd (pastor) will concentrate on three things: **leading the flock, feeding the flock, and protecting the flock.**

- This is the heart of a real pastor, and all real pastors will desire to develop these attributes in every leader in the church.

LEADING, FEEDING, AND PROTECTING

Our purpose is to lead everyone into an **authentic relationship with Jesus Christ through authentic worship, community, and community service.**

- Our food is the Word of God; verse by verse, chapter by chapter, book by book.
- Our safety is found in our relationship with others in Christ as we endure suffering.

HUMILITY AND CARES (1 PETER 5:5-7)

YOU WHO ARE YOUNGER

This isn't limited to younger in years, but younger in our walk with Christ. We all need teachers, mentors, and leaders that pour into our lives.

- **This isn't blind obedience; it's biblical submission to those who are leading with responsible, godly leadership.**

CLOTHED IN HUMILITY

This leader/learner relationship works best when both have humble hearts.

- Humility isn't self-deprecation, being a doormat, or keeping to ourselves. It's not a passive quality; **it's an active choice.** Humility is seeing ourselves and others as God sees us. **It's choosing to think about others' needs before our own and living at the level ground of the cross.**

GOD RESISTS THE PROUD

God resists the proud person because they don't trust God.

- Pride says, "I brought myself here. I can handle this myself. I will overcome because I am strong. I am better than most. Look what I have done. Everyone would be better off if they just follow me!"
- **Humility glorifies God, and God rewards the humble with His grace.**

CASTING YOUR CARES

Living humbly, under the mighty hand of God, puts us in the perfect position to trust Him with everything. This doesn't mean that we won't suffer. **It does mean that He will protect us during our struggles.**

- What is the source of your anxiety? Your worry? Your fear?
- Regardless of what kind of worry or anxiety we are prone to, **our anxiety is not a result of trusting the sovereign God who deeply and genuinely cares for us.**
- **God is working for the good of all those who love him** (Romans 8:28).

RESISTING AND RESTORATION (1 PETER 5:8-11)

BE SOBER MINDED

In 4:12, Peter told us: "Don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes," and now he says our minds should be clear and alert.

- We have been given instructions on how to respond to persecution, and now Peter reveals that an adversary is coming, and we should be ready for his attack.

LIKE A ROARING LION

This adversary is Satan. He comes like a roaring lion, seeking who he can devour. Too many Christians underestimate Satan. This isn't Simba, a circus lion, or some plush toy your children sleep with. **Satan is real!**

- He knows your past. He knows your circumstances. **He is a liar, and he wants to destroy your faith.**

RESISTING TOGETHER

He is not irresistible. We can stand firm in our faith when we realize we're not alone. Satan wants us to believe that we are alone in our sufferings; exhausted, weak, and defeated.

- **But God has sent us His community to stand with us, and we fight for our faith together.**
- **God sustains us in community.**

WHEN GOD RESTORES

We receive the most hope and strength for endurance when we look to God's promise.

- **Although we will suffer for a while, the same One that conquered the grave, called us to salvation, and gave us new life, will restore, establish, strengthen and support us for eternity.**
- **We can stand, knowing that Christ has gone before us into this battle and is with us now and forever.**

ENCOURAGEMENT AND IDENTITY (1 PETER 5:12-14)

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE

After all the talk of persecution, suffering, and direct attack from Satan, Peter says that he just wanted to encourage the believers.

- We need to understand that sharing the Good News will also require us to share the bad news.
- **It is the "true grace of God" that enables us to stand firm with others who suffer.**

A SIGN OF COMMUNITY

Peter wrote to encourage and testify that this is the true grace of God.

- This is why we gather together as well—to encourage one another.
- It is an individual, wholesome, affectionate encouragement that energizes us for life.
- **The love we show sets us apart from the world** (John 13:35).

GROWING TO BE LEADERS

- God has called some to be pastors, but all are called to be disciples.
- **As we grow in our faith, we should develop our spiritual leadership too.**
- **As disciples, we will all have some type of leadership role in His Kingdom. We should submit to God's conforming work and go where He leads.**

STAYING HUMBLE

- Leaders struggle with pride and the only remedy is **love; doing what is best for the object of our love, no matter the cost.**
- Humility is about perspective. **We must know the sovereign God, who we are, and the price He paid for each of us.**

STANDING STRONG

- In the face of persecution and suffering, it is time to stand firm in our faith against the attacks from our flesh, the world, and Satan.
- **Are we surrendered to God's authority?**
- **Are we submitted to godly leadership?**
- **Are we ready to become godly leaders?**

STAYING TOGETHER

- God has created a community, His church, where His people grow, are strengthened, find refuge, and are encouraged to share the good news to a lost world.
- **Are we growing, standing together, and serving in His community? Who are we really following?**