

## Main Passage: 1 Peter 5:1-14

### Theological Theme

God calls His people to walk in humility, mimicking Christ.

### Introduction

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What would you say makes a good leader?

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Who are some good leaders you know? What makes you think of them that way?

### 1. Shepherd God's Flock (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Peter began this section by addressing the church elders, appealing to them as a fellow elder with some experience. Peter specifically addressed the leaders (or overseers) within the house churches.<sup>3</sup> Today, this instruction applies to those serving in pastoral roles vocationally, but also other leaders within the church.

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What did Peter call the leaders of the church to in these verses? What does it mean to shepherd a flock?

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What characteristics of godly leaders did Peter highlight?

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How does Peter's description of godly leaders conflict with the world's definition of greatness?

### 2. Clothe Yourselves with Humility (1 Peter 5:5)

Peter next offered a message to the "younger" members of the church body (not necessarily a reference to age). Those under godly leadership should "subject" themselves to the elders. Those in the church should show respect for the leadership and their decisions. We may hesitate at this thought for fear of being taken advantage of by bad leaders. But Peter wrote this in the context of exhorting leaders toward godly leadership that serves in humility and models Jesus. It is a joy to follow these types of leaders.

- ④ What does it mean to be clothed with humility?
- ④ Peter said God resists the proud but gives grace to those who are humble. How have you seen this to be true?
- ④ How is God calling you to pursue humility in the body of Christ? How will you respond?

### 3. Concluding Remarks (1 Peter 5:6-14)

Peter packed a lot into this conclusion! Again, he gave the exhortation toward humility. This time, he wrote on the need for humility in our relationship with the Lord. If humility is us seeing ourselves rightly, there is no greater need for humility than before God. God knows more than us. His ways are better, and He can be trusted. He cares about us! We can (and should!) trust Him with our concerns. Peter's original audience had some pretty heavy "cares," but God cares about worries of all sizes. None are too small. He cares about you and wants you to bring everything to Him. Jesus likewise made this clear in passages like Matthew 11:28-30.

- ④ What stands out to you in Peter's conclusion here?
- ④ How did Peter portray the enemy in this passage?
- ④ What does that tell us about the need for sober-mindedness and alertness for God's people?

### Conclusion

- ④ Where has God entrusted you with leadership of His flock? How are you stewarding this responsibility? Think beyond just formal roles to other places you have been given natural influence for Christ.
- ④ What would it look like for you to "clothe" yourself with humility today? How would that affect the relationships in your life?
- ④ How would living as Peter exhorted in this passage give us opportunity for gospel conversations with others?