

**STUDYING THROUGH
1 PETER (28)**



Shepherds of the Flock
1 Peter 5:1-4

Previously

Throughout our study of 1 Peter, we have seen encouragement to remain faithful even in the face of trials, including persecutions.

His focus has been on preparing to suffer for His cause.

We concluded our last lesson by noting that we must *commit our souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.* (4:19)

Previously

Among the things we have considered in this book is how much we need each other.

NOW we turn to the leadership of the congregation –the responsibility of elders.

In this lesson we will notice:

- 1) The office of elder based on our text
- 2) The message of the text

The office of elder

The term elder can mean

- one who is older (elderly with experience, **poss. 1 Peter 5:5, 1 Timothy 5:1-2, etc.**

- an office – **Acts 20:17, 14:23, 1 Timothy 5:17, 19, Titus 1:5**

Clearly, our text is addressing this office

The office of elder

An elder is also described as a bishop and shepherd (pastor)

- Consider **Acts 20:17, 28** – Paul called for the elders and challenged them to shepherd the flock among which they had been made overseers

1 Peter 5:1-2 – Elders are to shepherd the flock, serving as overseers

Also, **Titus 1:5 & 7** – Elders & bishop

The office of elder

An elder is also described as a **bishop and shepherd (pastor)**
- **Elder** – (presbyteros) - clearly a reference to one who is older, hence more mature and wise.

- One who has experience and has proven himself both physically and spiritually

- Exact age is not given! BUT...

1 Timothy 3:6, he cannot be “a novice...”

Titus 1:6, his children are faithful

The office of elder

An elder is also described as a **bishop and shepherd (pastor)** - **Shepherd** – (poimainō), also “pastor” (**Ephesians 4:11**)

The Bible deals extensively with shepherds – David was a shepherd
Jesus is the Good Shepherd – **John 10:11, 14**

Psalm 23 – YHWH is my shepherd

A shepherd leads and cares for his flock. He feeds, protects and tends.

The office of elder

An elder is also described as a bishop and shepherd (pastor)

- Overseer – (episkopeō), also

“bishop” (**Philippians 1:1, 1**

Timothy 3:1-2, Titus 1:7)

The words describes a

superintendent or guardian. One

that oversees others, with delegated

authority

The office of elder

An elder is also described as a bishop and shepherd (pastor)
- All 3 terms are descriptors of their work and qualities, more than a title

The office of elder

Elders in congregations were always a plurality –
EVERY NT passage that addresses elders in a congregation –
Titus 1:5, Philippians 1:1,
Acts 14:23, 20:17, 15:6, etc.

The office of elder

Their authority is limited to the local work where they are.

1 Peter 5:2 – among you

Acts 14:23 – elders in every church

Acts 20:28 – the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers

Philippians 1:1 – written to the saints in Philippi

Hebrews 13:7, 17 – obey those who rule over you

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

**The elders who are among you
(5:1)**

Peter is writing to multiple congregations and Christians (**1:1**), yet he specifies their work was in a given location. “Take care of your own flock!”

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

I who am your fellow elder...

Peter was an elder

- NOTE: Peter was married – **Matthew 8:14-15, cf. 1 Corinthians 9:5**

A qualification for the office of elder -

1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6

Clearly, as an apostle, the other qualifications would have also applied to Peter. **1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9**

Based on other texts, he would have served as an elder in a local congregation.

NOTE: Paul was NOT an elder, though he was an apostle

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

I who am your fellow elder...

Peter was “a witness of the sufferings of Christ”

Both by being with Jesus

AND suffering for Him – **cf. 1 Peter 4:12-16, also Acts 5:41 (vs. 29 – Peter was included)**

ALSO, Peter was a “*partaker of the glory that will be revealed*” – he lived with a hope of a heavenly reward (**cf. Titus 1:1-2**)

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Shepherd the flock of God among you

Sheep are relatively defenseless without a leader. Vulnerable. The shepherd **CONSTANTLY** is watching!

Spiritually, a congregation needs leaders who genuinely care about them – physically and spiritually
(**Hebrews 13:17**)

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Shepherd the flock of God among you

Elders feed the flock with God's word

- Ensuring they are taught truth
- Warned about false teachers and “wolves” – whom they must be able to spot (**Matthew 7:15-16, Acts 20:28-31, Titus 1:9-11, etc.**)
- Instructed on godly living
- Disciplined when needed
- Ensure their environment is safe and pure

Again, “among you”

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Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Serving as overseers

Do the necessary work to keep the church going and ensuring its purity

- NOTE: More than one source reminds us that the Biblical concept of leadership is different from the corporate model of a “board of directors”

Shepherd must make decisions, sometimes unpleasant, but they **NEVER** forget they are guiding a flock.

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Serving as overseers

It is not their job to micromanage their lives, though they can lead them in the right direction.

NOTE: IT is the “flock of God”. Is it NOT our flock! THUS, whatever decision we make, it must be in compliance with His will!

We protect the flock FOR Him!

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Willingly, not by compulsion

To serve, willingness and desire must be there. **1 Timothy 3:1**

But this does not necessarily mean without hesitation or regrets. One might prefer to not serve but knows he is needed, capable and qualified, so he **SERVES** out of love for God and the flock! He **CARES** and does his best! **It must NOT be about ego!**

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

Not for dishonest gain, but with eagerness

His concern is the welfare of the congregation.

1 Timothy 3:3, not greedy for money. He should not see his work as opportunity to prosper materially. He understands money pitfalls (**1 Timothy 6:9-10**) Elders **MUST** be able to make decisions based upon truth and spiritual expedience, **NOT** based upon financial windfall.

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

**Not for dishonest gain, but
with eagerness**

Eagerness here is a desire to
please the Lord and ensure that the
church remains the church of Christ
(**Ephesians 1:22-23**)

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

As examples, not as lords...

Elders must set a proper example as they lead. He serves, even as the Lord served

The word “example” is typos – indicating a pattern or type. Cf.

Hebrews 8:5, Philippians 3:17

- **Hebrews 13:7** – whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

As examples, not as lords...

NOTE: This is not saying elders have no decision making authority. That is implied in their role as overseers and shepherds. But decisions are made based upon truth, the wellbeing of the flock, and they apply it to themselves first.

Imagine an entity where lawmakers **ONLY** enacted laws and rules they were willing to follow themselves!

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

As examples, not as lords...

NOT as lords... elders are not dictators, micromanagers of one's life, etc. They are not to be tyrants or bullies.

They **CONSIDER** the welfare of the flock as they make decisions.

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

As examples, not as lords...

The most effective way to lead others is by being willing to do what you ask of others and showing them how to act (by example). This shows that you care and are consistent!

THAT is the task of an elder!

Typically, when godly elders lead in godly ways, the godly will gladly follow them.

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

When the Chief Shepherd appears

Often our rewards are not material but come later as we stand before God.

Jesus is the “Chief Shepherd” – **e.g. John 10:14, 17** who gave us a type to follow. If we conform to His ways, He will reward us accordingly – **1 Corinthians 11:1, Ephesians 5:1, 3 John 11, etc.**

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

When the Chief Shepherd appears

He is going to appear!

THERE is a day of judgment
coming – **John 5:24-29,**
2 Corinthians 5:10,
cf. Revelation 20:11-15

Our Text – 1 Peter 5:1-4

When the Chief Shepherd appears

When He appears, we will receive
our crown

- the victor's crown - **2 Timothy
4:7-8, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25,
James 1:12, etc.**

It does not fade away – it is our
eternal reward – **1 Peter 1:3-4**



Studies in 1 Peter



**Are we preparing each
other to stand firm as
we face trials?**



Studies in 1 Peter



Let us pray!