

HUMILITY: The Key to Godly Leadership
Got Hope? Messages from 1 Peter
April 24 & 25, 2010
1 Peter 5

¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

• _____ according to the truth about what leaders are to be and do.

⁵ Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

• _____ before God and others; adopt a realistic view of yourself.

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
• _____ as the one who is over you, who cares for you, and will reward you.

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

• _____, being vigilant and strong, not complacent and vulnerable.

¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

**Questions for Personal Reflection
And Group Discussion**

1. Think about leadership style you've practiced or seen in your family, business, politics and athletics. What style seems to be most common? Which one is most effective?

2. Why did Peter reintroduce himself as he began this exhortation aimed at leaders?

3. The central command given to elders is to shepherd the flock. Look up the following verses to get a better idea about the attitude and actions of a shepherd. Gen. 48:15; Ps. 23; Is 40:11; Luke 15:5-6; John 10:11,14; Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:20,21; Rev. 7:17. What does God want us to learn about leadership based on the use of this terminology?

4. How do teens who are constantly bossed around and put down tend to respond? On the other hand, what is the typical result when teens are neglected by parents who provide no standards or training? What does biblical leadership look like at home? If it is neither authoritarian nor permissive, what is it like?

5. After rereading 1 Peter 5:2-4, write out a description of the correct motive and manner for Christian leadership.

6. Read these verses about humility and consider your own leadership style. John 13:4-15; Luke 6:41,42; 17:7-10; 18:10-14; Rom. 12:3,10; and James 4:1-6.

7. Because of God's care for us, we are encouraged to cast our anxieties upon him. Read Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25-34; and Phil. 4:6,7. What anxieties are bugging you? Are any of them too big or too little to bring before God?

8. In Ezek. 34:2-16, we read a frightening indictment of selfish shepherds. What picture does this paint about how godly leaders lead?

9. What encouragement does Peter give about how to handle the devil? Should we go after him and engage him in battle?

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1 Peter 1:5

5:¹ *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:* ² *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;* ³ *not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.* ⁴ *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

•Redefine leadership according to the truth about what leaders are to be and do.

⁵ *Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* ⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

•Reassess who you are before God and others; adopt a realistic view of yourself.

⁷ *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

•Rely on God as the one who is over you, who cares for you, and will reward you.

⁸ *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* ⁹ *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* ¹⁰ *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.* ¹¹ *To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

•Resist your adversary, being vigilant and strong, not complacent and vulnerable.

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