

Three Distinctives of a Godly Leader

November 18, 2018

Live Different
GODLY LIVING IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

Open: Why does God give some people authority over others?

Read & Discuss: 1 Peter 5:1-5

1. In verse 1 Peter lists several truths about himself. How would each qualification mentioned give him credibility to address church leaders?
2. Paul calls church leaders to “shepherd the flock of God that is among [them]” (v. 2). What makes “shepherd” a fitting analogy for a church leader? What activities characterize this shepherding?
3. In verses 2-3 Peter contrasts various potential attitudes and behaviors of church leaders. In your own words, describe the contrast of serving “not under compulsion, but willingly” (v. 2b)? What might drive a church leader to serve “under compulsion”? Why would it be so important to God that we lead “willingly”?
4. How would you describe the contrast of serving not “for shameful gain, but eagerly” (v. 2c)? Is it wrong for a church leader to be paid? Why or why not? (See *1 Corinthians 9:6-12; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18.*) When would serving for gain become “shameful”?
5. How might the behavior of a domineering leader contrast with one who leads by example (v. 3)? What could tempt church leaders to be domineering? What kind of “example” do you think Peter expects of church leaders (v. 3)?
6. Although Peter writes to church elders, many others serve as leaders in some capacity within the church. What are ways Peter’s instructions in verses 2-3 apply to you in your ministry?
7. How is Peter’s comment in verse 4 supposed to encourage leaders? How does the promise of eternal reward encourage you in your life and ministry?
8. In practical ways, what does it look like for church members to “be subject to the elders” (v. 5)? What might the “flock of God” do to help church leaders excel in their role as leaders?
9. What’s Peter mean when he calls us all to “clothe ourselves...with humility toward one another” (v. 5)? Why is it essential for both church leaders and members to be clothed with humility?

Apply: What’s one step you could take this week to apply Peter’s instructions to your life?

Pray: Pray that our church will be a healthy, vibrant place of growth for all involved.

1 Peter 5:1-5.

^[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: ^[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. ^[4] And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ^[5] Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

(ESV)