

...to **the elders and local flock** of what *other* local flocks need—elders who know and faithfully fulfill their role and responsibilities toward their local flocks

'I exhort the elders...as a fellow elder...'

as a fellow elder

as a witness of the sufferings of Christ

as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed

ESV **1 Peter 1:** ¹¹...when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

Why does Peter mention these characteristics of his?

'I exhort the elders...shepherd the flock...exercising oversight...'

shepherd the flock of God that is among you

exercising oversight

HOW should elders (pastors) manage their shepherding oversight?

Motivation...

NOT under compulsion, BUT willingly as God would have you (v. 2)

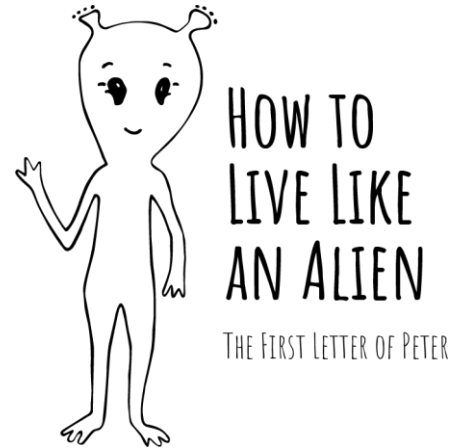
NOT for shameful gain, BUT eagerly (v. 2)

NOT domineering over those in your charge, BUT being examples to the flock (v. 3)

WHY should elders (pastors) manage their shepherding oversight well?

when the chief Shepherd appears... (v. 4)

you will receive the unfading crown of glory... (v. 4)



Sunday, October 09, 2022

How to Live Like an Alien
The First Letter of Peter

No. 25 – Managing Our Positions in Life Well, pt. 1

1 Peter 5:1-4

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Review

The apostle Peter, writing to Christians who are both *elect* and *exiles*, encourages them to live faithfully...

- Praising God for Our Salvation (1:3-12)
- Setting Our Hope on God (1:13-21)
- Growing in God's Word (1:22-2:3)
- Being Built Up as a Spiritual House (2:4-8, 9-10)
- Keeping Our Conduct Honorable as God's People (2:9-10, 11-12)
 - Being Subject as Citizens to Human Authorities (2:13-17)
 - Being Subject as Servants to Our Masters (2:18-25)
 - Being Subject as Wives to Their Husbands (3:1-6)
 - Being Considerate as Husbands to Their Wives (3:7)
 - Being Considerate as Believers to Each Other (3:8-12)
 - Being Committed to Doing Good No Matter What (3:13-17)
- Christ's suffering gives us confidence to face our suffering (3:18-22)
- Christ's suffering gives us determination to cease from sinning (4:1-6)
- Staying Close to One Another (4:7-11)
- Entrusting Our Souls to God (4:12-19)
- Managing Our Positions in Life Well (5:1-11)

No. 25 – Managing Our Positions in Life Well, pt. 1

1 Peter 5:1-4

ESV **1 Peter 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.

Managing our positions in life well...

Part 1 Elders must shepherd with the right motivation... (5:1-4)

How?
Why?

'So I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight...' (vv. 1-2)

So (or therefore)...

- Remember, Peter is writing to believers (elect exiles) scattered in five regions—Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia—to encourage them in living here and now as Christians though they may suffer.

A Few Considerations Leading Into 1 Peter 5:1-4:

- He's not *directly* writing to a local church or local churches.
- All of the believers he's writing to most certainly *didn't* know each other, and most likely didn't all know Peter, personally.
- And yet, he *didn't* send the same letter, individually, to *every believer* he's writing to, but rather sent one letter to a particular group of believers (i.e. a local church), intending for it to circulate to *other* groups of believers (i.e. local churches), too.
- All of which to say, Peter's letter-sending/receiving and circulating, along with his letter's encouragement (especially, his encouragement regarding believer-to-believer relationships), most naturally *assumes* a local church context.
- Thus, as we read 1 Peter 5:1-4, for example, Peter is writing assuming...
 - ...that every believer is properly connected to a local church ('flock')
 - ...that each of their 'flocks' has appropriate leadership ('elders')
 - ...that each of their faithful reception of his letter's encouragement is in no small part connected to their relationship with their own 'flock' and 'elders'
 - ...that each of them *knows* they have a particular role within their own 'flock' and *needs* encouragement to continue fulfilling it well

'I exhort the elders among you...'

among you...

(v. 1) the elders among you (the flock)

(v. 2) the flock among you (the elders)

the elders (*presbuteros*)...

= a common term, not only within Judaism but also within the Greco-Roman world; often used to refer to someone who is an *elder* within a particular community, either because of age or another determination of seniority; someone looked to provide leadership and counsel

= within local churches, the term was used technically to refer to a position of leadership within local churches; from the NT, it seems clear that *every* local church had elders who were appointed to lead, and that elders were also referred to by two additional terms, used interchangeably for the same position of leadership—**overseer** (*episkopos*, or bishop; 1 Timothy 3:1-7) and **pastor** (*poimen*, or shepherd; Ephesians 4:11-16)

ESV **Acts 20:** ¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders (*presbuteros*) of the church to come to him. ...²⁸ "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (*episkopos*), to care (*poimaino*) for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

ESV **Titus 1:** ⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders (*presbuteros*) in every town as I directed you- ...⁷ For an overseer (*episkopos*), as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain...

ESV **1 Peter 5:1** So I exhort the elders (*presbuteros*) among you... ² shepherd (*poimaino*) the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight (*episkopeo*), not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

- This passage (5:1-4) is a reminder...

...to each **local flock** of the role and responsibilities of their elders

...to **the elders** of each local flock of their role and responsibilities toward their local flock

...to **those who aren't yet** elders of the role and responsibilities of elders should they one day become elders of a local flock