



"God's Plan for Church Leadership"

November 23, 2025

The Big Idea: God gave His church leaders who are called to live by an even higher **standard** than other disciples of Jesus. His plan is simple – in the people they lead, leaders always **get** what they are. Leaders produce what they are displaying to the ones they lead.

1 Peter 5:1-5 (ESV)

5 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:

²shepherd the flock of God that is among you,

exercising oversight,

THREE WORDS FOR ONE SET OF CHURCH LEADERS:

- ① **Elders** – which suggests *Maturity & Wisdom*
 - Ancient and contemporary societies looked to the elders for wisdom & guidance.
 - Synagogues – then churches
- ② **Pastors** – which means *Shepherds*
 - John 10:11-13
 - Faithful pastors always know it is **God's** church, not theirs.
 - 3 Things a Shepherd does [Psalm 23]
 - Feeds** [Titus 1:9]
 - Leads** [Prov. 20:28]
 - Protects** [Titus 3:10]
- ③ **Bishops** – which means *Overseers*
 - "episcopos" → to **look** over
 - Elders are charged with keeping an eye on "the **big** picture".
 - It also means that they pray, evaluate, plan and lead with a **long**-view.
 - "We don't really know what we've raised until they're 30."

not under **compulsion**, but willingly, as God would have you; not for **shameful gain**, but eagerly; ³not **domineering** over those in your charge, but **being** **examples** to the flock.

⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

⁵Likewise, 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.

MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVICE

Not because you **have** to –
But because you **want** to.

Not for what you can **get** out of it –
But for what you can eagerly **put** **into** it.

Not so you can **tell** people what to do –
But so you can give them an **example**

THE REWARDS – PRESENT & FUTURE

- Elders must come to grips with the fact that they will often be **misunderstood**, second-guessed and **unappreciated**.
- Peter says, in essence, we're not doing it for immediate **reward**. One day the Chief Shepherd will come and He will acknowledge His faithful shepherds who served His Church.

TWO CLOSING IMPERATIVES:

1. Younger adults, follow the **example** of your Elders.
2. Everyone in the Church – wear **humility** every day. It's never out of **style**, no matter your age.

Four Ways You Can Pray for Your Elders

1. Pray that we will **love** and stay close to Jesus, Our Shepherd and **hear** His voice above all others and that we **obey** that voice.
 2. Pray that we will lead with spiritual **maturity**, shepherd faithfully and oversee with **wisdom**.
 3. Pray that we will always lead by **example**, with fear and trembling, because we know "we produce what we are."
 4. Pray that we live and lead with **humility** and **joy**.
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