

Stand Firm in Humility

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Based on the "We Stand Firm" Series of Matthew Rogers

Matthew Rogers Preaching

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Opening Prayer

- Pray for a humble heart as we discuss submitting to God's appointed leaders in the church.
- Ask God to help us recognize and appreciate the shepherds He has provided for our protection and growth.

Ice Breaker

What's one situation in life where you've found it surprisingly helpful (or challenging) to let someone else take the lead instead of handling everything yourself?

Key Scripture

1 Peter 5:5 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Sermon Summary

Many of us feel safer handling things ourselves rather than trusting others to care for us. Yet God provides safety for His children through humble submission to the shepherds—elders—He appoints in the church. We are truly safe when we humbly submit to these leaders, recognizing the dangers in life and the godly way they lead.

Discussion Point 1: We Need God's Shepherds Because Life Is Dangerous

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

Point Summary: Life as a Christian includes real dangers—suffering, persecution, temptation, and spiritual attacks from the enemy. God doesn't leave us to face these alone; He provides elders as shepherds to protect, guide, pray for, preach to, and care for the flock. Submitting to church membership and leadership gives us the spiritual authority and protection we need.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kinds of "dangers" have you noticed in your own Christian walk or seen in others that make you grateful for spiritual leaders?
2. How does knowing the devil is actively seeking to devour people change the way you view the role of elders in the church?

Discussion Point 2: God's Shepherds Are Safe Because of How They Lead

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2-3 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Point Summary: Our elders lead willingly, not out of obligation or for personal gain, but eagerly and as examples. They serve without seeking power or money, focusing on kingdom impact and Christlike leadership. This makes it safe to trust and follow them, as seen in the character and commitment of FCC's elders.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you about the qualities Peter describes for elders (willing, eager, exemplary rather than domineering)? How have you seen these in our church leaders?
2. Why do you think God designed leadership with multiple elders instead of one person with absolute power? How does that build safety and trust?

Discussion Point 3: We Must Treat God's Shepherds with Respect and Humility

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:5 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Point Summary: We are called to submit to elders, acknowledging God's delegated authority, and to clothe ourselves with humility—like tying on an apron to serve. This means encouraging, defending, and praying for our leaders rather than criticizing or resisting. Humility brings God's grace, while pride invites opposition.

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes submission to leaders hard sometimes, especially when we think we might know better? How does the sermon's reminder to "submit" speak to that?
2. Thinking about the "Yes, No, or So-So" questions from the sermon (encouraging elders, defending them, praying for them, etc.), which area is God challenging you in personally?

Wrap-Up

We are safe when we humbly submit to the shepherds God provides, because life is dangerous, our leaders lead with godly character, and humility opens the door to God's grace. The key call in **1 Peter 5:5 (CSB)** reminds us that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble—let's choose humility together.

Challenge

This week, take one specific action to show respect and humility toward our elders: maybe pray for one by name daily, send an encouraging note or text, or defend them in conversation if criticism arises. Also, consider how you can support FCC's ongoing ministries as we follow our leaders toward greater faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for the elders He has placed at FCC (Duke Fox, Brad Hagg, Jack Wilhite, Jon Heck, Mark Lafountain, Dave Williams, Stephen Leininger) and pray for their continued strength and wisdom.
- Pray for each group member to grow in humility, submission, and grace toward leaders and one another.
- Ask God to protect our church from danger and to make us a flock that brings joy to our shepherds.

Handout

Stand Firm in Humility – Life Group Handout

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:5 (CSB) In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Quick Recap:

1. Life is dangerous—we need shepherds for protection.
2. Our shepherds are safe because they lead willingly, eagerly, and as examples.
3. We respond with submission and humility toward one another.

Personal Reflection Questions (take home):

- Which “danger” in life right now makes me most thankful for spiritual leaders?
- How can I “clothe myself with humility” this week (e.g., serving, encouraging, submitting)?
- Prayer list: Write the name of one elder and one specific way to pray for them this week.

Challenge Check-In: What action did you take to encourage or support our elders? Share next time!

(Feel free to jot notes during discussion)