

Sermon: Relationships and Responsibilities within the Church

Text: [I Peter 5:1-14 \(ESV\)](#)

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Introduction: I have watched elders from the perspective of a member and that of a minister. I have seen wonderful godly men, and I have seen men who were not qualified to hold the office of elder in Christ's Church. Peter knew good leaders make all the difference in a positive way, but bad leaders can damage and wound Jesus' Church.

I. A Good Elder Will Have Healthy _____ (vv. 1-4).

A. With _____

B. With those in the _____

II. A Good Elder Will Carry out His _____ (vv. 5-9).

A. Be an _____ for others.

B. _____ life-lessons to others.

III. A Good Elder Will See _____ in Others (vv. 10-11).

A. Made _____ (restored).

B. _____

Conclusion: I would like to make a contemporary correction on the eldership. Being a shepherd for God's flock is never about ruling, authority over, or dominating someone. It is all about love, care, and sacrifice while submitting to the will of God and the best interest of others. We cannot be leaders alone and in isolation. We walk together toward heaven as servants of the Most High.

We may have disappointed others, as well as God, but there is always a way back if we will only repent. John Mark started out as a perceived failure, reconciled with Paul, and went on to write the 2nd Gospel in the NT. Imagine what God could do with you...

I Peter 5:1-14 ESV

Shepherd the Flock of God

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,[a] not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;[b] 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."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. 13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Footnotes

[a] 1 Peter 5:2 Some manuscripts omit *exercising oversight*

[b] 1 Peter 5:2 Some manuscripts omit *as God would have you*