

TRUE SHEPHERDS

Sunday, April 26, 2026 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 32 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 5:1-5

English Standard Version (ESV)

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."

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND:

- 1) The Apostle Peter writes this letter to persecuted churches all over the Mediterranean world about _____ years after Jesus was crucified, buried, raised and ascended into heaven.
- 2) This letter was written and distributed to them to encourage them, instruct them, and _____ them so they may be faithful to God in a world that was hostile to their faith and practice as Christians.
- 3) Peter turns his attention to _____ /Elders as he writes this letter. He writes both to the pastors/elders themselves but also to the believers in their congregations. He intends to either remind or set the standard for how a pastor/elder should _____ and _____.
- 4) Last Sunday we saw how corrupt human leaders have been a problem since the beginning of time. We walked through the Old Testament and New Testament and saw that a great many of the leaders of God's people were very corrupt. They often led God's people to _____ and immorality.
- 5) Last Wednesday evening Pastor Ben walked through many of the _____ and _____ leaders of the OT and NT. Yes, God has always provided faithful leaders too.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR TRUE SHEPHERDS:

I. NOTICE THE _____ OF A TRUE SHEPHERD (v.1)

"So I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the suffering of Christ..."

A. See that the Apostle Peter was an elder like them... *as a fellow elder*.
Peter saw himself _____ them, **not** _____ them.

B. Peter called elders to see themselves as _____ God's people not _____ God's people.

CHRIST is the anchor of this great humility — HE _____!
Peter is not the hero. The elders are not the hero. _____ is the hero!

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.”

- C. This gracious Hero (Christ) is going to _____.
 vs 1 *as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed*
- It isn't so much a statement about what you will get, but what _____!
 - Our Savior is a _____ **VICTOR and HERO!**
 This is totally opposite of the Roman victories...

II. NOTICE THE _____ OF A TRUE SHEPHERD vs 2a
“shepherd the flock of God that is among you...”

- A. The flock _____—not the shepherd!
 Not “your church”
 Not “your people”
- B. The work is _____, not merely managing.

This is the same charge given by Jesus to Peter in John 21:15-17!

JOHN 21:15-17

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” ...“**Feed my lambs.**” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” ...“**Tend my sheep.**” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”... Jesus said to him, “**Feed my sheep.**”

- _____ John 10:14–15; Acts 20:28; Proverbs 27:23
- _____ John 21:15–17; 2 Timothy 4:2
- _____ Psalm 23:2–3; Hebrews 13:7
- _____ Acts 20:29-30; Titus 1:9; John 10:12-13

This language only makes sense because of _____!

1 PETER 2:24-25

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

JOHN 10:11 Jesus speaking to His disciples...

I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

*** Every pastor is an _____-**SHEPHERD** of the _____ **SHEPHERD.** ***

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.

III. NOTICE THE _____ OF A TRUE SHEPHERD vs 2b-3

exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

A. NOT _____ → BUT **WILLINGNESS**.

Not forced, not reluctant, not mere obligation.

Ministry is not a *burden* to _____ —it's a *calling* to _____.

B. NOT _____ → BUT **EAGERNESS**

"not for shameful gain, but eagerly;"

This includes: money, recognition, influence.

But Eagerness = _____ in serving Christ's people

HEBREWS 12:22

*looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

C. NOT _____ → BUT BY **EXAMPLE**

vs 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Not control, not intimidation, not personality-driven leadership

Authority comes through _____, **not** _____.

Peter isn't inventing a new leadership model — he is describing _____.

IV. NOTICE THE _____ OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD vs 4

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

A. We are looking to that 'coming Day'... He is _____.

Revelation 22:12 Jesus speaking... (also see Isaiah 40:10)

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done."

B. _____ is coming with Him.

C. _____ is coming with Him.

Matthew 25:31–34

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory... then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

Matthew 5:11–12 Jesus speaking...

"Rejoice and be glad, for _____ is your _____ in heaven..."

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."

V. NOTICE THE RESPONSE OF THE TRUE CHURCH vs 5

A. *Likewise you...*

Now the focus turns to the _____ as well.

Not only should they know what to expect in their pastors, but also _____.

B. _____ remains the core value/attitude:

First, Peter **modeled** it... *a fellow elder*.

Then Peter **pictured** it in Christ... *the sufferings of Christ*.

Then Peter **instructed** the leaders... *no compulsion, no dominance, no greed*.

Then Peter **applied** it to all... *'you who are younger', then 'ALL of you'*.

Just as there are tendencies for the older or leader-types to be prideful,

so _____ can be blinded by pride, selfishness and arrogance.

Starting with the young, we are **all** called to humility.

What does it mean to be **subject to the elders**?

- this means to _____ to what they are saying
- this means to _____ yourself to their authority
- this means to _____ their warnings
- this means to _____ from their experience
- this means to _____ their counsel
- this means to _____ their guidance.

This attitude goes against our fallen, human nature. Our flesh resists _____.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

*5 Have this **attitude** among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied Himself**, by taking the form of a **servant**, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

The church is and **its members** are strongest **not** when it has 'perfect bosses', but when it has humble _____ and humble _____; everyone is looking to the _____ — **Our Lord Jesus Christ**.