



October 13, 2024

Part 9: *Shepherding God's Flock*

1 Peter 5:1-6

Opening Question: Have you ever been disappointed or betrayed by a Christian leader you looked up to? What effect did that have on your faith?

1 Peter 5:1-6 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Who were the "elders" in the New Testament?

1. _____

What responsibilities do these "elders" have, and what is the Church's responsibility to them?
(see *Hebrews 13:17-18*)

2. _____

Who are these "elders", and what are some of their responsibilities? (see *Titus 1:5-9, James 5:14*)

3. _____

What do these "elders" have to offer to the Church, and what is the Church's responsibility to them? (see *Job 12:12, 1 Timothy 5:1-2*)

What is the basic responsibility of all Church "elders"? How are they supposed to lead?

(see *Jeremiah 3:15, Matthew 9:36, John 10:11*)

What do we know about sheep and shepherds? Why did God choose this metaphor to refer to our relationship with Him?

To whom do Christian "sheep" belong? Why is this important for leaders to keep in mind?

Have you felt called by God to help shepherd His flock in any way? If so, how have you responded? If not, have you ever prayed about it, asking Him how you might serve Him?

Your Notes: