

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 5:1-5 Elder Ministry

Elders are to exercise Christ's ministry with Christ-centered motives in a Christlike manner.

1) Christ's Ministry (5:1-2)

- a) Ministers appointed by Christ to serve on His behalf: note elders are to "shepherd" (v. 2a) for the "Chief Shepherd" (v. 4)
- b) Elders (Presbyter)—wise counsel and sound judgment
- c) Shepherd (Pastor)—feeding and leading Christ's sheep
- d) Exercising Oversight (Bishop)—governance/rule
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Who do you know that gives biblical counsel? Is not judgmental, but exercises sound judgment? Has giftedness for teaching? Is someone you naturally want to follow as you seek to follow Christ? Has biblical wisdom for governing those under his care (family, employees, soldiers, etc.)?
 - ii) Elders, do you know the sheep? Are you known to the sheep? Do you smell like sheep? Elders, are you equipping and energizing yourself for this ministry?

2) Christ-centered Motives (5:2-4)

- a) Willingly—**desiring to serve**; "not under compulsion" (v. 2b)
- b) Obediently—**desiring to obey**; "as God would have you" (v. 2c)
- c) Eagerly—**desiring God to be glorified**, not fame, fortune, or power; "not for shameful gain" (v. 2d)
- d) Hopefully—**desiring to share Christ's glory**; "as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed" (v. 1b); "when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive . . ." (v. 4)
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Who do you know that exhibits the desire to serve others? Who delights in obedience to God's Word? Who is zealous for the worship of God? Who seems eager to make God known to others? Who hungers and thirsts for the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ?
 - ii) Elders, what moves you? Desires arise from the heart. Are you nourishing your affections for the Holy Trinity? Are you stirring up your love for the sheep?

3) Christlike Manner (5:3-5)

- a) Not Domineering (v. 3a): a) Not self-serving; b) Not relying on intimidation
- b) Exemplary Conduct and Character (v. 3b)
- c) Humility (v. 5)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Who do you look to for a Christ-like example in attitude and action? Who strikes you as a humble leader, exhibiting strong moral character and clear direction with gentleness in dealing with the weaknesses of others?
 - ii) Elders, do you rely on ham-fisted methods to coerce people into action? Or, are you compelling people with a Christlike life?
 - iii) Church, are you honoring your elders? Are you honoring the Chief Shepherd in your respect for His under-shepherds?

Doxology: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. – Psalm 147:1-3