

1 Peter 5:5-7

⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

He Cares for You **1 Peter 5:5-7**

INTRO:

I used to write essays carried in the daily devotional publication of Russian Gateways, an email devotional started by my brother-in-law, Ken Koetsier. I mention this because an article I wrote about handling stress generated a response from a lawyer who asked me, why do we who know the Lord, and know the truth, have such a hard time practicing what we know? I think the answer to this question is alluded to here in **1 Peter 5:5-7**.

I. Our Actions (v. 5a)

II. The Principle (vs. 5b, 6)

III. The Method (v. 7)

I. Our Actions (V. 5a)

1 Peter 5:5 *“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

A. I really want to rush ahead to the third point, but if we are going to understand properly we must understand these **verses 5-6**. First, the apostle Peter calls us to a specific action that is part of a broader life principle.

1. What was he writing about? In the context, Peter outlined how elders ought to lead in God’s church (**vs.1-4**). Elders (pastors and church leaders) must act as God’s shepherds and oversee the local flock. The ultimate check on their shepherding is that when the Chief Shepherd appears, He will do a performance review for each of His shepherds

v.4 *“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”*

2. On the heels of this Peter exhorted the younger submit to their elders. Immediately, we ask, “Who are the ‘younger’ and who are the ‘elders?’” Did Peter change the metaphor to that of age? Was he talking to other officers in the church who are not elders? Or did the metaphor he used extend to all who are the “*younger ones*” in the church commanding them to be submissive to those in leadership (the elders)? Given the context of the church officers in **verses 1-4**, it seems this is the most likely situation.

B. While the elders are exhorted to lovingly lead the flock, being reminded that their shepherding is being actively evaluated by the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Chief Shepherd and Who knows all things. We, who are the flock, are equally exhorted to be submissive to our elders. Peter then draw a bigger principle

v. 5b *“And be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”*

Our pride gets in the way of our mutual submission, love for one another, and our submission to God’s chosen leaders. This is why Peter wrote that we must clothe ourselves with humility. Humility is not a poor self-image. Biblical humility is a proper understanding of who we are and a willingness to put others ahead of ourselves. The prime example of humility is the Lord Jesus Himself! **Philippians 2:5-11**.

II. The Principle (v. 5b, 6)

A. Peter drew an overarching principle to guide our lives. Here it is.

“God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.”

The word picture is vivid. God arrays His army against the proud and He gives grace, blessing, and favor to the humble. If we fight God and His order, God will fight against us. Do we have any question about who will win this fight? The other side of this coin is if we submit to Him and His Will, He will give grace and favor to us. He will take care of us and our needs.

B. How then should we live our lives?

v. 6 *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”*

1. What does it mean to humble ourselves under the mighty God? Job’s response when the bottom fell out of his life is instructive

Job 1:20-22 *“Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”*

Humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God is a willingness to accept everything He sends our way, recognizing He has a plan in it. Is this easy? Not at all.

2. Don't forget the promise with the principle. In the right time He will exalt us. I think of that wonderful passage in **John 12:26**

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

Are we willing to always submit ourselves to His Will? If we are, then the Father will honor us.

III. The Method (v. 7)

A. How do we do this practically? A life of submission is a difficult one. We can only live this life by casting all our cares upon Him. What does this mean?

1. The participle here is built on the verb *"to throw something on something."* It is used only one other place in the Bible, in **Luke 19:35** when the disciples brought the donkey Jesus used in the triumphal entry to Him we read.

"Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him."

Just as the disciples put their coats on the donkey, we need to put our cares upon the Lord!

2. The first word translated *"cares"* is the word for anxieties. The verb form of this word appears in **Philippians 4:6** where we learn how we cast our anxieties upon the Lord.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

Peter wrote it this way because we tend to, at best, cast only some of our cares upon Him. Those we cast upon Him, we have a habit of taking back. Our Lord said through Peter. *"Don't take them back."* Instead, as the song says, *"Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there!"*

B. Now here is where the rubber meets the road. How can we have the confidence to do this? We can have it when we are fully convinced that God really does *"cares for you."* We will not be able to put all our anxieties upon the Lord unless we are absolutely convinced He cares for each of us.

1. When I responded to the lawyer about how we fail at this, I told him I am convinced the biggest problem we have is that the Lord is not real enough to us. We don't see that casting our cares upon Him does anything. He is real. Yet, He often is not real enough to us.

2. Think of what Peter is saying. If we know the Lord Jesus as our Savior, He Who in the beginning stepped out of eternity into time and spoke the worlds into existence, He Who is so great that the nations are a drop in the bucket compared to Him, He who parted the Red Sea, provided manna, raised Lazarus from the dead, died on a cruel cross for our sin – He loves us so much He died for us, He cares for you and me.

3. The reason we have so much trouble casting our cares on Him is because we are not convinced He cares for us. Why do we doubt? Did He ever do anything to earn that doubt? Has He ever failed us? No, No, a thousand times no! Our problem is that we have let the Father of lies put one of his greatest lies in our minds. Don't believe Satan. Understand, believe, practice because He cares for you more than you will ever know.

Leave It There