

The Demeanor and Reward of Shepherds, 1 Peter 5:1–4  
3/17/19, GCC Morning Worship

**Introduction**

- A. The principle prerequisite for elders is a prevailing disposition of Christ-likeness (1 Tim 3; Titus 1:6–9)
  - B. What are the proper manners and motivations of a shepherd and what reward can he expect?
- I. A Shepherd serves, not as one who fills a position, but as one who is fueled by a passion (5:2)
- A. Not all jobs require passion to do them well
  - B. Four Marks of a pastor’s deep-seated passion for ministry
    1. He is passionate about God’s Word
    2. He is passionate about corporate worship on the Lord’s Day
    3. He is passionate about the church
    4. He is passionate about doing all things well for the glory of Christ
- II. A Shepherd eagerly seeks to feed the sheep, not fleece the sheep (5:2c)
- A. “Shameful gain” vs. “Gain” (1 Cor 9:7–12; cf. 1 Tim 3:8; 5:17–18; Tit 1:7, 11)
  - B. He shepherds eagerly
- III. A Shepherd is a servant-leader, not a tyrannical despot (5:3)
- A. What domineering is not
  - B. Three areas where a pastor might be domineering
    1. Domineering can be a failure to distinguish black and white commands from matters of Christian liberty (Rom 14:5; cf. 2LBC 21:2)
    2. Domineering can be an overly narrow view of unity that results from a failure to distinguish between primary, secondary, and tertiary doctrinal matters (3 Jn 9, 10)
    3. Domineering can mean that a pastor doesn’t give people room to grow (1 Thess 5:14)
  - C. Elders model Christ by their life
    1. What are the leaders telling a congregation when they lay hands on an elder? (1 Tim 5:22)
      - a. He is a man to be imitated
      - b. He is, in his private life, what he is in his public life (Matt. 18:5-6).
      - c. He is teachable, approachable, and humble (Prov 12:1; 15:31–33)
- IV. The Heavenly Reward of Elders (5:4)
- A. The reward is for service, not for justification
  - B. He works so that he might stand before God with a clear conscience
  - C. He works so that he might offer any accolades back to Jesus (Rev 4:10)

V. A Church Will Have the Elders She Demands

**Questions for Application:**

1. Why is the manner and motivation with which a pastor shepherds his people just as important as the duties he executes?
2. What are the marks of a pastor who does not have a passion for the Word, for Christ, or for Christ's people?
3. What does a shepherd do besides the Sunday morning sermon?
4. What are the benefits of having a full-time vocational pastor as opposed to having only a bi-vocational or lay pastor?
5. What are three ways in which a pastor can be domineering?
6. How and why are these things "domineering?"
7. Why is it important for the office-bearers to protect the consciences of the people of God in their public worship?
8. Read 1 Timothy 4:16. Why is the moral life of a pastor crucial in the life of the congregation?
9. What are some practical ways in which the congregation can ensure that she is ruled by godly elders?