

What Congregations owe to their Elders, Pt. 1 (1 Peter 5:5a)
3/24/19, GCC Morning Worship Service

Introduction:

- A. How shall we deal with armchair quarterbacks in the church?
 - B. Under the Lordship of Christ, who holds the umbrella in the church?
- I. What do we do in those circumstances when members have opposing opinions regarding how the elders rule? (1 Peter 5:5a)
- A. “Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. (1 Pet. 5:5a)
 - B. Note three details about verse 5a
 - 1. The word “likewise” shows that Peter is continuing his exhortation about the relationship between pastors and the congregation (cf. 1 Pet 2:18–25, 3:1, 3:7)
 - 2. The term “elders” in v. 5 confirms that Peter is talking about the congregation’s role to elders (cf. 5:1)
 - 3. How shall we understand “younger ones?”
 - a. Metaphorical View=the whole congregation
 - b. Literal view=those in the congregation who most needed to hear the imperative to submit to their pastors
 - c. The command to submit to the elders is not to younger people exclusively
 - i. Older people can be just as cantankerous and ornery than younger people
 - ii. Timothy was not to be intimidated by those older than him (1 Tim 4:12)
 - iii. The author to the Hebrews tells **all** the congregation to “Obey your leaders and submit to them” (Heb 13:17; cf. 1 Cor 16:15–16)
 - C. All of the congregation is to submit to the elders
- II. Let scripture be the touchstone of how we think about and carry out our responsibility to the under-shepherds in Christ’s church
- A. Past experience, personal opinions, and cultural ‘norms’ should never be a justification to jettison the biblical teaching on order in the local church
 - B. We need to let the bible create and inform categories in our mind and heart which will give us a heading and a blueprint for how the congregation is to relate to her pastors
 - 1. Example of a skewed view of fatherhood
 - 2. Let the word of God be a touchstone of clarity
- III. A Brief Definition of Submission
- A. Submission is more than honor, respect, and deference
 - B. Submission is a self-conscious decision and determination to willingly and cheerfully submit to the leaders of the church as they lead, teach, instruct, and even lovingly admonish you with the Word of God.
 - C. The word *hypotasso*, “submit to,” is used numerous times in scripture for real submission

1. Of Jesus submitting to the authority of his parents (Lk 2:51)
 2. Of demons being subject to the disciples (Lk 10:17)
 3. Of citizens being subject to governmental authorities (Rom 13:1, 5; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13)
 4. Of the universe being subject to Christ (1 Peter 3:22)
 5. Of Christ being subject to God the Father (1 Cor 15:28)
 6. Of wives being subject to their husbands (Col 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:5; Cf. Eph 5:22, 24)
 7. Of Christians being subject to their masters (Titus 2:9; 1 Pet 2:18)
- D. Submission is concerned with roles, not 'being' and typically has exceptions and qualifications

IV. How Submission to Elders and Submission to Christ Come Together in the Ministry of the Word (Eph 2:13–17)

- A. Until we are willing to submit to the Word of Christ, we will never be prepared to submit to the under-shepherds of Christ
- B. Christ speaks to believers through the Preached Word
- C. Christ speaks to unbelievers through the Preached Word (Matt 11:28–30)