

What Congregations Owe to their Elders, Pt. 3 (1 Peter 5:5a)
4/14/19, GCC Morning Worship

Introduction:

- A. Review of 1 Peter 5:1–5a
 - 1. The congregation must submit to the elders in the church
 - 2. A real God-given authority
 - 3. What submission does not mean:
 - a. *Submission does not mean that you give the elders absolute authority over your consciences and wills.*
 - b. *Submission to elders does not mean that you are to regard your elders as infallible in their interpretation and application of scripture.*
 - c. *Submission does not mean that members must agree with their elders in matters of judgment and wisdom which are not explicitly addressed in scripture*
- B. **Main Idea:** To be submissive to elders means that you conscientiously embrace, from the heart, every aspect of their bible-based efforts to shepherd and oversee you as part of the flock of God committed to them
- C. What Does it mean that congregations are to submit to their elders?
 - I. *It is the congregation's duty and privilege to be present when their shepherds feed them with the Word of God (5:2)*
 - A. The Shepherd prepares tailor-made messages for his people
 - B. Worship is both active and passive
 - 1. Worship is active
 - a. The Church at Antioch (Acts 13:1–4)
 - b. The Recalibration of Asaph (Psalm 73)
 - c. Recalibration comes through Remembering our identity through the means of grace
 - 2. Worship is passive
 - a. Three channels must feed into the tributary of illumination: Word, Spirit, Pliable Heart
 - C. The Lord's Day is the God-Ordained Bull's-Eye for saving and sanctifying his people (Isa 58:13, 14)
 - II. *Submission means that the congregation heeds the biblically-based warnings of their shepherds (5:2)*
 - A. Shepherds warn against false teaching
 - B. Shepherds warn against competing loves (Ps 19:11; cf. Col 1:28)
 - III. *Submission means that the congregation doesn't run and hide when the shepherd comes to heal or restore them with the Word of God (5:2)*
 - A. False Shepherds Refuse to heal, restore, and seek out straying sheep (Ezek 34; cf. Prov 27:6)
 - B. Christians must be willing to drink the healing elixir and let the shepherds remove the ticks and the burrs from their fleece

- IV. *Submission means the congregation follows the example of their shepherds in so far as their shepherds are imitating Christ (5:3; cf. Heb 13:7)*
 - A. Leaders offer exemplary lives for imitation
 - 1. Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands (1 Tim 5:22)

- V. *Clothe Yourselves with the Humility of Christ (5:5b)*