

**TITLE: HUMILITY - STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH**

**TEXT: 1 PETER 5:1-11**

**THESIS:** To deal with any persecution through proper leadership and submission, all done with humility & awareness of the danger.

**I. HUMILITY IN LEADERSHIP (v. 1-4):**

- A. (v. 1) Right Motivator – Peter, a fellow elder
1. As a fellow elder ('elder with'; older, presbyter) – Peter was not a pope! He calls himself a fellow elder (same level), which coincides with Paul's teaching regarding elders in **1 Tim 3 & Titus 1** – *plurality* of elders; none above the others.
  2. Peter was an eyewitness of Christ's sufferings – in the garden (praying; apprehended); **Lk 22:61**- During his trial, Jesus looked at Peter; etc.), so he knows what he's talking about mentioning Christ's sufferings (1:11; 2:4,21-24; 3:18; 4:1,13).
  3. Peter, like all faithful Christians, will be a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed (final glory in Heaven).
- B. (v. 2a) Right Mission
1. Feed the flock –(feed, tend, rule, govern – shepherd/pastor) – implies authority & responsibility. Elders have God-given authority over the flock "among you" (i.e., the local congregation – no authority over any other congregation).  
- **John 21:16** – Jesus commanded Peter – feed my sheep (they need it!)  
- **Acts 20:28** – "Take heed to all the flock over which the HS hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God..."
  2. Taking the oversight – 'episcopos' (overseer, bishop) – an elder is not just an office, it's a work (**1 Tim 3:1**)! Prerequisite to this is **Titus 1:9** – holding fast the faithful word...able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince those who contradict.
- C. (v. 2b) Right Motive
1. Willingly – out of desire, not duress; concern, not constraint (**1 Tim 3:1** – "he...*desires* a good work")
  2. Not out of greed (not for your own gain) – apparently, elders were paid by the church (**1 Tim 5:17**- worthy of *double* honor).
  3. Of a ready mind – eager; cheerful readiness; "very strong word, expresses enthusiasm and devoted zeal" (Rienecker)
- D. (v. 3-4) Right Method
1. He is *not* a dictator, he only enforces the law *God* has given. But, he's not just an Enforcer! He's not excited about power!
  2. He's an Example; pattern – instead of being the church policemen, simply making sure the law is followed, *rather they should follow the law, as an example to the church!* **John 13** – Jesus' example of washing his disciples' feet.

**II. HUMILITY IN SUBMISSION (v. 5-7):**

- A. (v. 5-6) Likewise (in the same way – humble; the right attitude),
1. Submission to the elders
    - a. Younger submit to the elders (possibly "older ones" here, if he's talking to the "younger ones"; however "younger" could mean 'inferior' or 'subordinate' as in those who are submitting to the elders of v. 1-4 (**Lk 22:26** – translated 'younger' means 'inferior').
    - b. **\*Heb 13:7, 17** – obey them that have the rule over you
    - c. **1 Thess 5:12-13** – "*know them that are over you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.*"
  2. Submission to each other
  3. Be clothed with **humility** (modesty; lowliness; putting others ahead of yourself; the opposite of selfishness)
    - a. Submission requires humility! How can I truly submit to anyone if I think of myself higher than everyone else?
    - b. Why? God resists (opposes) the proud, & gives grace to the humble. He who exalts himself will be humbled-**Lk 18:14!**
    - c. (v. 6) Humble yourself before God and *He* will lift you up in due time.
- B. (v. 7) *Cast all your care on Him, for he cares for you!*
1. Aorist tense, meaning "having cast..." In order to truly humble ourselves before God and others, we first need to trust God with every concern, worry, & fear we have, and **know** that He'll take care of us!
  2. **Psa 55:22** – "*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*"

**III. STRENGTH AGAINST THE ENEMY (v. 8-11):**

- A. (v. 8) Be sober (discreet, watchful, not careless), be vigilant (awake; watchful). Our enemy the Devil wants to kill us! An inspired apostle (God speaking to us through him) is saying to keep our eyes open to what the Devil is doing! He's deceitful!
- B. (v. 9) Resist (oppose) him steadfast (solid, stable)! How? In the faith! The only way to beat Satan is to remain faithful to God. Peter knew – **Lk 22:31** – "Peter, Satan desires to have you." Peter failed once, knowing Satan had gotten the best of him. Now at the end of this letter he *urges* us to stay true to God, being humble, and resisting the Devil!
- C. (v. 10) Peter's final encouragement – "After the suffering, God will make you perfect!" God will make everything alright!

**CONCLUSION:** The picture that's been painted for us here is the scene of shepherd, sheep, and the wolf (or lion in this case) – the love & care of the shepherd(s), the love & trust of the sheep, and the hatred of the one that would attack the sheep. \*In the church, for this scene to unfold how God wants it (obedience & safety of the sheep), whether leading or following, you *must* have humility! There is no room in God's family for selfishness. **Selfishness divides people; it steals brotherly love in exchange for personal gain & recognition.** God opposes this! Humility places a high value on others, higher than even yourself! This humility is necessary for the success of the Lord's church!