

1 Peter

Lesson #19, Chapter 5:1-5

Ask the Lord to give you understanding of His Word and how to apply it in your life. Read all of Chapter 5 in preparation for this lesson.

1. Peter begins 5:1 with *therefore*, which lets us know that what he is going to discuss next is connected with the previous verses. What idea from 4:12-19 is Peter connecting to his commands to church leadership in 5:1-5?
2. Before Peter even tells the leaders of the church what he wants them to do, he identifies himself with them. What does he reveal about himself? How would those words give credibility and authority to the commands that follow?
3. Where are the elders according to verse 1? How many elders are there (verse 1)?
4. What do those two observations (from the previous question) tell you about the kind of church leadership God expects and why it is good and necessary for the congregation?
5. The Scriptures use the terms *overseer*, *bishop*, *elder*, and *shepherd* to refer to the same role in the church. Look up the following verses then summarize what you learn about elders: Acts 15:22; 20:28; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:1; 5:17-18; Heb. 13:17.

6. What are the necessary qualifications for elders? See 1 Tim. 3:2-7; 2 Tim. 2:24-26 and Titus 1:5-9.

7. What are the elders commanded to do in verses 2-3?

8. Define the word *shepherd* [Strong's #4165]. See how the same word is used in Jn. 21:16 and Acts 20:28.

9. Read Ezek. 34:1-10 and make at least 5 observations about the role of a shepherd.

10. What attitudes and motivations are to govern the elder as he shepherds the flock of God (verses 2-3)? How would those attitudes be a protection for the sheep and bring glory to God?

11. What encouragement does Peter have for the elders in verse 4? Why would those words of encouragement be especially sweet to the leaders in the church?

12. Who is the Chief Shepherd and what do you learn about Him? See Ezek. 34:11-16; Jn. 10:11, 14; Heb. 13:20.

13. How would knowing that one day elders would meet the Chief Shepherd be a motivation for excellence in the areas Peter commands in verses 2-3?

14. You may be giving a big sigh of relief since these verses pertain to the elders of the church, but you're not off the hook yet. Consider this: What kind of sheep are the elders to shepherd? Look up 1 Thess. 5:12-13 and Heb. 13:17. In what ways can you encourage your elders as they shepherd the flock of God?

15. We will all see the Chief Shepherd one day. Just as the elders are to be examples to the flock of God, we must follow their example. Are you proving to be an example to your brothers and sisters in the body of Christ? How do your attitudes for serving match up to the ones Peter discusses in verses 2-3?

16. Finally, Peter addresses the young men. What are they commanded to do (verse 5)? Peter uses the term *likewise* [Strong's #3668 (NIV *in the same way*)] to tie it in with what he has already said in these verses. What information is given to "young men" that is linked to what came before—*in the same way*?

17. Why would the admonition to the younger men be necessary?

18. What command is given to the rest of us in verse 5?

19. The word *clothe* literally means “to put or tie on” like when a slave tied on an apron in preparation for serving. It is highly probable that Peter is recalling Jesus’ example in Jn. 13:3-17. Read those verses, then answer: What does God want us to understand about humility when we are told clothe ourselves with humility toward one another?

20. Why is it so important to obey this command according to verse 5?

21. Define *opposed* [Strong’s #498 (NKJV *resists*)]. See also Prov. 6:16-17; 8:13.

22. Make a list of the ways that God gives grace to the humble as you read the following verses: Ps. 10:17; 25:9; Prov. 29:23; Is. 57:15; 66:2; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; James 4:10.

23. Write down 2 ways you can clothe yourself with humility toward one another. Ask God to help you obey this command with diligence and joy.

A humble man has this advantage of a proud man, for he cannot fall.
~Edward Marbury

Christians should always be the ones to start the sprint down the low road.
~Dave Hintz

God’s choice acquaintances are humble men.
~Robert Leighton

Better is the sin which humbles me, than the duty which makes me proud.
~Thomas Watson