

“Peter, in addressing the **elders** (*presbyterous*; cf. Acts 11:30; 20:17), also used a word that identified himself as one who held the same office (*sympresbyteros*, “fellow-presbyter”). As an elder, Peter was speaking from experience. However, Peter’s authority came from the fact that he was an apostle (1 Peter 1:1) and **a witness** (*martyrs*; cf. Acts 3:15; 10:39) **of Christ’s sufferings**. Peter also referred to himself as **one who ... will share** (*koinōnos*; cf. 1 Peter 4:13) **in the glory to be revealed**. Peter had just made the point that those who share in Christ’s sufferings will also share in His glory (4:13). Peter further identified with his readers by referring to his own suffering for Christ’s sake (Acts 5:40).”¹

As we evaluate the directives given by Peter to the scattered saints in the book of 1 Peter, we get insight as to how an Elder (also called a Pastor - Ephesians 4:11) is to operate as well as how humility is to be **demonstrated**:

- I. **An Elder/Pastor is to provide oversight without seeking sordid gain but with eagerness. What does this mean? (v2)**
 - A. To provide oversight to the members of the body without being greedy for money
 - B. To provide oversight to the members of the body without seeking dishonorable gain
 - C. To provide oversight to the members of the body with an intense desire to do it for the people
 - D. To provide oversight to the members of the body with a ready mind, willing and wanting to care for the flock

- II. **An Elder/Pastor is to provide oversight without lording it over the members of the body but by proving to be an example to them, anticipating the unfading crown of glory for his faithful service. What does this mean? (v3-v4)**
 - A. To provide oversight to the members of the body without being domineering in his leadership over the members
 - B. To provide oversight to the members of the body without using coercive force in his leadership over the members
 - C. To provide oversight to the members of the body while modeling a godly pattern for members to follow

¹ Roger M. Raymer, “1 Peter,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 855.

- D. To provide oversight to the members of the body while demonstrating an example of mature Christian character
- E. It is not clear what the unfading crown of glory is, however we are clear that there is some special reward that God will provide for the Elder/Pastor that is faithful in his service.

III. Younger men are to submit to the Elder/Pastor and all are to walk in humility towards each other, because we know that God does not like us walking in pride but is gracious to those who are humble. (v5)

- A. Younger could mean new believers in the faith, young people, or literally younger men in reference to the leaders, however that would not exclude the older in faith from this direction. Therefore we can conclude that younger people, whether new in the faith, younger people/younger men (older people not excluded) are to align themselves under the leadership and direction of the Elder/Pastor accordingly.
- B. We all in leadership and under leadership are to see who we are, who we are not, and who we need to become in the eyes of God and submit to that accordingly, resulting in presenting ourselves before God and others appropriately, as suited for our God-given role in a matter, resulting in serving accordingly in that role as a slave would serve his master.
- C. "Peter quoted Proverbs 3:34 to emphasize God's different attitudes toward the proud and the humble. God opposes (lit., 'sets Himself against') the arrogant but grants favor and acceptance to the humble."²

IV. The Process to Humility

- A. Examine yourself.
 1. What sin has God exposed that I am not repenting of right now?
 2. In what areas of my life am I not obeying God right now?
 3. Have I been giving thanks for everything or have I been complaining about people/places/things/circumstances?
 4. What is preoccupying my thinking (serving or being served)?
 5. Am I honest with myself about who I am (positive and negative)?
 6. Am I honest with myself about who I am not (positive and negative)?
 7. Am I honest with myself about who I need to become?
 8. Have I accepted my roles and responsibilities and am I functioning in them as commanded by God or according to my mood?
- B. Examine your relationships.
 1. How often do I confess my sin and seek forgiveness from people I have sinned against?
 2. Do I speak the truth in love or am I crass?
 3. Am I encouraging more and criticizing less?

² Roger M. Raymer, "1 Peter," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 856.

4. Am I serving others consistently or as I feel like it?
 5. Am I on the defensive when others tell me I am wrong or have sinned?
 6. Am I teachable or just able to teach?
 7. Do I have a hard time accepting being wrong or is that becoming easier to deal with?
- C. Examine your response to authority.
1. How often do I follow the instructions of my husband?
 2. How often do I follow the instructions of the leaders on my job, at church, and in the government?
 3. Do I submit to leaders according to my standards or God's standards?
 4. Do I have biblical reasons not to follow the instructions given by the authorities over me?
 5. How often do I fight against instructions that I don't agree with or don't feel like doing?
 6. Do people have to instruct me in a certain way before I submit or do I submit as unto the Lord?
- D. Commit to the put off / put on process.
1. Ask yourself "Am I willing to live up under God's Authority in all areas of my life?"
 2. Confess to God your sin of pride in the areas where you find pride.
 3. Learn how God wants you to walk in those areas of your life by studying God's Word and seeking wise counsel.
 4. Pray for God's Wisdom on how to apply what He gives you to do.
 5. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and support of other believers, set goals on a weekly basis for doing what God has commanded.
 6. Work daily at accomplishing these goals of obedience.
 7. Expect difficulty and resistance from your flesh, the world and the devil.
 8. When you fall, get up and keep training in the truth.
 9. Let others support you and hold you accountable.

Key Concepts to Consider:

1. A pastor is to feed, lead, watch over, and warn all who are under his responsibility.
2. A pastor must shepherd with oversight because He wants to, not because he feels he has to or for wicked gain.
3. A pastor must be an example of godly, mature Christian character for those people who have been assigned to him by God.
4. A pastor can expect suffering in this role and a reward to follow for being faithful in the role.
5. Submission to the pastor is crucial while humility towards all is essential for the Christian community to reflect the glory of God and to function according to God's will and good pleasure.