

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5v1-4

<sup>1</sup> The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for *filthy* lucre, but of a ready mind; <sup>3</sup> Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

### Context:

#### In chapter 1 Peter mentions being born again:

He speaks of the inheritance given to all at the moment of their new birth by faith  
Before they began to serve or do good works, it is given by the mercy of God.

#### In chapter 2 He then refers to new born babes growing in grace

By taking the milk of the word and following the example of Christ

#### In chapter 3 He speaks of wives, husbands and family relationships

He encourages the saints to love, care and be courteous to one another

#### In chapter 4 He deals with Christian service and the difficulties and persecutions faced

All through he has kept reminding the saints of the sufferings of Christ  
And how relevant they are to the Christian life.

#### In chapter 5 He now turns to the eventide of life:

He is encouraging elders to serve well in tending the sheep  
He encourages all to stay humble, cast their care upon the Lord  
And be aware of the enemy who seeks their downfall

### Ch5v1-4:

It is good to distinguish statements made from additional information and reasons given for those statements:

Peter makes 3 statements separated 2 groups of 3 pieces of additional information  
Giving a lovely poetic like structure:

<sup>1</sup> The elders which are among you I exhort

(who am also an elder,  
and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,  
and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:)

<sup>2</sup> Feed the flock of God which is among you,

(taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly;  
not for *filthy* lucre, but of a ready mind;

<sup>3</sup> Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.)

<sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

### The main subject of these verses is that of Elders:

#### Elders in a local Assembly are:

- Gifted by the Lord – Eph 4v11
- Raised up by the Spirit – Acts 20v28
- Recognised by the saints – 1 Thess 5v12

## 1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders which are among you I exhort,

There are different names given to Elders in the NT

They are always in the plural in each local Assembly.

The different names are instructive:

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • ELDERS: their maturity          | 1 Peter 5v1           |
| • OVERSEERS (Bishops): their work | Acts 20v28; Titus 1v7 |
| • STEWARDS: their responsibility  | Hebrews 13v17         |
| • PASTORS (Shepherds): their care | Ephesians 4v11        |
| • RULERS: their leadership        | Hebrews 13v7          |

In the Bible these all refer to the same persons:  
The elders.

The elders which are among you I exhort,

1. who am also an elder,
2. and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,
3. and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Peter makes this appeal based upon three things:

### (1) Peter is a fellow elder.

He knows the challenges and difficulties of a shepherd over a local church.

He is writing to the shepherds as a shepherd himself. Jesus charged Peter to feed his sheep in Jn 21.

It is a call to courageous leadership in the face of suffering, they were not alone!

### (2) Peter is a witness of the sufferings of Christ.

Peter is not unaware of the suffering that these shepherds were enduring.

But Peter saw the suffering of our Saviour and Lord.

When suffering for righteousness' sake, it helps to be reminded that the servant is not greater than his Lord

### (3) Peter is a partaker in the glory to be revealed.

Although suffering now, the hope of the believer is in the glory that will come later.

Peter is sharing in that hope, looking forward to the glorious return of the Lord.

Peter got a sight of that glory on the mount of transfiguration!

**Peter cautions the elders with 3 'not – but' sentences:**

**Feed the flock of God which is among you,**

- (1) taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly;
- (2) not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- (3) Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock

**(1) Not by constraint but willingly:**

Peter is exhorting shepherds to love their work and be willing to do it.  
Be willing to feed and to tend the sheep.

**(2) Not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind**

Filthy lucre means selfish gain – like the hireling in John 10

A ready mind means a very keen interest in the sheep, enthusiastic and eager to help

**(3) Not as Lords over but as examples to the flock**

Lording it over means demanding things to be done that you wouldn't do yourself

**A New Testament Assembly**

The Lord Jesus Christ  
is the Head of the body, the church.

All who are saved (Christians)  
have become members of the body, the church

Christians in a local area  
come together to  
form an Assembly gathering  
Elders are appointed to rule

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**Elders in a local Assembly are:**

- Gifted by the Lord – Eph 4v11
- Raised up by the Spirit – Acts 20v28
- Recognised by the saints – 1 Thess 5v12

<sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

## 1 Peter 5:1-4

And when the **chief Shepherd** shall appear,  
ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

The Lord Jesus Christ  
is the chief Shepherd

Elders are under-shepherds

There is a chief shepherd who  
oversees all the under-shepherds  
and all of the flock

All under-shepherds (elders) and sheep  
are in the flock of the chief Shepherd