



"Elders = Pastors & Shepherds."

As we go through the Books of 1st & 2nd Peter, Peter talks to all Pastors and young men!

Vision = Seeing what God is doing and going to do! **Proverbs 29:18!**

1. It's always about Jesus.

- **1 Peter 5:1** – "Elders...I appeal to you..." (**Elder = Pastor / Shepherd**)
- Notice, Peter says he is a witness to the sufferings of Christ. He knows Christ suffered, and Peter himself suffered for Christ. He addresses the Pastors, and says that he knows that they suffer things too in Ministry for Christ because Christ suffered first!
- **Elder / Pastor / Shepherd** is not just a title, but a call from God to oversee the church until Jesus returns a 2nd time. The scriptures are crystal clear that the local church is not a person's church, but Jesus' church!
- He places the Pastor in the position that he is in **Acts 20:28** – "over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders."
- Times of suffering as a Christian and in Ministry leading the church is a rough deal on Pastors. The position of Pastor is to oversee, care for by feeding the Word of God and equip the church. *The Pastor is a gift to you to help you in your life.* **Ephesians 4:11**
- **Elder** = called, mature and seasoned. (What about a young pastor then? Well, that is why you have the books of 1st & 2nd Timothy and Titus to TRAIN UP the young Pastor.)
- **Notice in verse 1 Peter says "Elders" = a plurality of Pastors.** A team of Pastors overseeing the church. I'm so thankful for our Pastoral Team here at Endurance!
- A Pastor shares in the sufferings that happen in Ministry because of the standard for Truth which must be upheld. Jesus Suffered for the Truth!
- It is not easy being in charge of ANY and EVERY situation that arises in people's lives. We currently have 250+ families here at Endurance at any given time. I will tell you...you would not believe what the Pastoral Staff has had to deal with over the years. Not just personally, but in all arenas. Yet, God is faithful!
- Peter says that it is all worth it! **1 Peter 5:1** "I too will share in His glory"
- As with life...the good, the bad and very ugly happen...yes even in the church! Yet, the rewards outweigh he hurts! Outweighs the betrayal! Outweighs the division and chaos!
- See, no matter what a Pastor faces...**it's always about Jesus!** Peter reminds us of this!

2. Shepherd the flock of God.

I Peter 5:2 – “**Care**” = **Shepherd**. Lead the flock, live amongst the flock and watch over the flock. Guard the flock and feed the flock.

A. Watch over it willingly...not grudgingly. This is a call! *There are over 2000 pastors a month that quit their church, get out of ministry to not return again. Why?* People and life can be very difficult. Life, finances, family tragedy, offense...

- The Pastor is constantly the “bullseye” for anything and everything in the church and outside of the church. A lot of things happen with people and Pastors! Both things!

B. Verse 2 “not what you can get out of it” Pastors KNOW that this call is from God **I Corinthians 9:16** / **Romans 1:15**!!! We must live each day to not be disqualified.

- It is irrevocable or irreversible **Romans 11:29**. (**Disqualified Pastors will be miserable!**)
- **Don’t put a muzzle on the Preacher.** **I Corinthians 9:14** / **I Timothy 5:17-18** / **Galatians 6:6** as examples. (I can tell you Ministry has been very hard a couple of times with this)
- **Peter is sharing that the Pastor’s heart and motives not be for what you get out of it, but that God will take care of this calling and position when the Pastor does what he is supposed to do.**
- **John 10:11-14** talks on the **Hired Hand vs. a Shepherd!** (In it for the wrong reason)
- **An Example: The False Pastors of Peter’s day** was using the Pastoral position *to rob money from the people...* **2 Peter 2:1-3**! Notice “**their destruction**” was and is certain!
- Instead, you need to Pastor the church because you **want to serve!**
- **This also means to not be in it for the spotlight or attention!** **Matthew 6:1** / **James 4:10**

C. I Peter 5:3 – “**Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care...**” **Did you notice that not only the Pastor is called and placed...**but YOU are too!**

- **WE must remain Humble!** **I Peter 5:5-6**
- **God has placed YOU here!** The Pastor is to remain humble in the fact that Jesus is the Head of the Church **Colossians 1:18**!
- Yet, **the church** is to remain humble as well along with the Pastor! **Hebrews 13:7 & 17** (*Sheep don’t bite the Shepherd...Shepherd does not strike the sheep...he strikes the Wolf*)
- **I Peter 5:5 & Ephesians 4:3.** Let’s not give each other a hard time here! It does no good!
- I’m not talking about situations that must be dealt with...but let’s show grace to one another and not have any ill motives! Situations must be dealt with head on if needed.
- I also know this...a Pastor will never be able to please everyone in a situation...no matter the effort taken! It’s a bummer when people talk to others and won’t talk to you.
- See, **I Peter 5:7** doesn’t say to remain offended, bitter or chew on that fat juicy gossip! It says to Cast All of your Worries / Anxieties to Him! Get rid of it!

Closing: Why? Because Jesus is coming back again!!!! Verse 4 – “The Great Shepherd!”

- See, we will all give an account to Jesus as the Head of the Church and your life and mine! **2 Corinthians 5:10**
- The best advise today? **I Peter 5:8**! The Devil will have his way with people IF they are not watchful, sober and their heart is closed off!
- But, WE can defeat him and his strategies by doing **I Peter 5:9-11** together!