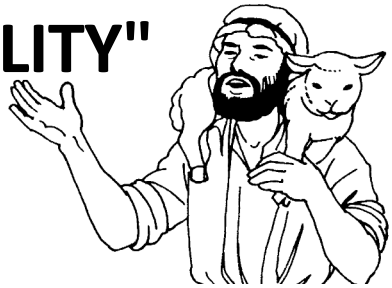
"THE ELDER'S RESPONSIBILITY"



(What God Expects From a Pastor)
I Peter 5:1-4
5-25-2022

INTRODUCTION:

See what God expects from the Elder.

I. God Expects the Elder to <u>HEED</u> His Exhortation (v. 1)

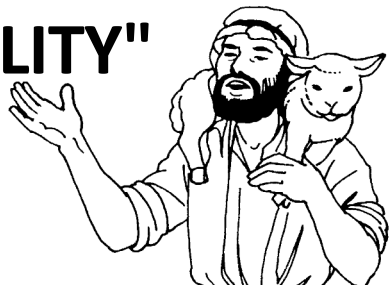
II. God Expects the Elder to <u>FEED</u> His Flock (v. 2a)

III. God Expects the Elder to <u>LEAD</u> His Flock (v. 2b)

IV. God Expects the Elder to <u>BE AN EXAMPLE</u> to His Flock (v. 3)

CONCLUSION: Verse 4 - God's Reward: the special crown for faithful pastors

"THE ELDER'S RESPONSIBILITY"



(What God Expects From a Pastor)
I Peter 5:1-4
5-25-2022

INTRODUCTION:

See what God expects from the Elder.

I. God Expects the Elder to _____ His Exhortation (v. 1)

II. God Expects the Elder to _____ His Flock (v. 2a)

III. God Expects the Elder to _____ His Flock (v. 2b)

IV. God Expects the Elder to _____ to His Flock (v. 3)

CONCLUSION: Verse 4 - God's Reward: the special crown for faithful pastors

"THE ELDER'S RESPONSIBILITY"

(What God Expects From a Pastor)
I Peter 5:1-4
5-25-2022

INTRODUCTION:

EX: The unrealistic expectations people have for their pastor.

What does God expect?

***See what God expects from the Elder.**

I. God Expects the Elder to <u>HEED</u> His Exhortation (v. 1)

"Elders" (*presbuteroi)* - This is the proper <u>title</u> of the pastorate.

The term refers to those <u>men</u> who preside over an assembly in a capacity of leadership.

The title specifically refers to the spiritual <u>maturity</u> demanded of the office.

***"Among you"* -** The various churches to whom Peter writes had an elder or elders (in larger churches) who ministered to the spiritual needs of the flock.

***"I exhort"* -** to beseech with an encouraging appeal.

The Apostle Peter addresses the elders with humility and graciousness as further evidenced by his description of himself as a fellow elder (an elder together with you).

Peter, like all of the Apostles, would function as an elder of the churches he planted until he trained leadership to replace himself and moved on.

Peter does not call himself a "pope," but humbly calls himself an *"elder"*, yes, a *"sum-elder"* (an elder together with you).

Some religious denominations mistakenly have different offices of clergy. However, three terms are employed in verses 1 & 2 which describe three facets of the same pastoral office -

1) *"Elder"* (*presbuteros)*
2) *"Feed"* [shepherd, pastor] (*poimain)*
3) *"Oversight"* [bishop] (*episkopos)*

Note: Acts 20:17, 28 - the same 3 descriptions of the same office are given again (cp. Titus 1:5, 7)

Lest the elders excuse their disobedience in fulfilling their role due to suffering and persecution, Peter reminds them that he also witnessed suffering. (He not only saw Christ's personal suffering, but he shared in suffering for Christ)

Peter had a share in the glory all believers share in - that being the glorious transformation we will receive and the glorious presence of Christ when He is manifested at the Rapture.

II. God Expects the Elder to <u>FEED</u> His Flock (v. 2a)

"Feed" - (*poimaino)* lit. shepherd; do the work of shepherding.

Shepherding a flock involves:

1. <u>Feeding</u> the flock
2. <u>Leading</u> the flock
3. <u>Protecting</u> the flock

"Shepherding" = supplying all the <u>needs</u> of the flock

(A shepherd in Israel had a rough, tough job; it is all work! They wander; they have needs of shelter, safety, food, aid, medication, etc.)

The English word "pastor" is from an old Eng. word which mean to "<u>pasture</u>" (shepherd).

Jesus commissioned Peter to *"<u>feed</u> My sheep"* (Jn. 21:15-17).

If I am to adequately feed you, I can't. . .

--give you <u>shallow</u> messages (foam and froth, not substantial)
--give you <u>brief</u> messages (sermonettes, "snacks")
--give you <u>unBiblical</u> messages (ear-tickling, "junk food")

Unfortunately, the average pastor does not "*<u>feed</u>*" his flock; he only gives the <u>grits</u> over and over again (TV dinners perhaps).

SEE: II Tim. 4:1-5

"The flock of God" - It's not the pastor's flock, it's God's.

God died for the flock (Jn. 10)
God saved the flock
God owns the flock

"Which is among you" - Not everyone else's flock (the problem with radio and TV preachers is that they are tending other pastor's flocks)

(We Baptists believe in the autonomy of the local church)

III. God Expects the Elder to LEAD His Flock (v. 2b)

"Taking the oversight" - This phrase tells how the elder is to shepherd the flock entrusted to him.

"Oversight" - (*episkopos - epi =* over; *skopos =* to look, to see) The elder's job is to "look over" the entire flock. He is to watch out for their protection, direction, and growth.

He is to "look out" for . . .
--wolves
--false doctrine
--divisions
--needs

The elder must not do everything but must oversee everything.
--He can't neglect his priorities (Acts 6:4 - Word and prayer)
--He must have willing workers to delegate responsibility to

"Not by constraint" - not with an attitude of compulsion or force, but willingly (voluntarily).

Ministry should be a joy, not drudgery, a privilege not a chore, a "want to" not a "have to."

Such an attitude is hard to maintain when the flock does not cooperate with the pastor.

My only compulsion should be I Cor. 9:16 - *"Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel"*

"Filthy lucre" - shameful, dishonest gain.

The ministry is not a "money-making" endeavor. The motivation is not mammon but God's glory.

"Ready mind" - an eager, zealous, on fire attitude

The shepherd must feed the flock, not use the flock to feed himself (Ezek. 34:1-10).

They should be remunerated for their labor (I Cor. 9:9-14) and generously if they are diligent in God's Word (I Tim. 5:17-18).

IV. God Expects the Elder to <u>BE AN EXAMPLE</u> to His Flock (v. 3)

"Lords over" - The elder must not have a domineering, despotic, dictatorial control (like that of the master/slave relationship).

"Heritage" - lit. the ones <u>allotted</u>; that which is assigned or appointed by the sovereign choice of God.

This flock I pastor is the portion allotted to me of God. This is the vineyard God has allowed me to labor in.

We lead not by force and fear, but by example.

"Ensamples" - to model; to give a pattern to follow.

The elder must not expect the people to merely do what he says, but to do what he <u>does</u> (This is why the qualifications are so high! -- I Tim. 3:1ff).

CONCLUSION: Verse 4 - God's Reward: the special crown for faithful pastors

Christ is called the *"Great Shepherd"* (Heb. 13:20); and the *"Good Shepherd"* (Jn. 10:11, 14), and now the *"Chief Shepherd"*.

"The Chief Shepherd" - Christ is the ultimate shepherd, every pastor is an "under shepherd," under the rules and authority of the Chief Shepherd.

(A pastor cannot do his own thing)

"Appear" - To be revealed to the eyes; the Rapture is in view.

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me."

"Crown" - (*stephanos)* - victor's wreath

(Victorious athletes were awarded floral crowns, which quickly faded away)

The honor, recognition, and praise of men will fade away, but the glorious crown Christ gives to pastors will never fade! (we must not live to please men but God).

What is your responsibility to your elder/pastor/overseer?

1) Pray for him (*"Brethren, pray for us")*

2) Assemble with him (Heb. 10:25)

3) Appreciate him (I Th. 5:12)

4) Respect him (I Th. 5:13)

5) Follow him (Heb. 13:7)

6) Submit to his lead (Heb. 13:17)