

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER

TO THE CHURCH OF THE DISPERSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1 PETER CHAPTER 5:1-4

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Ministers, Each And Every One – Part 3”

The Ministry of The Grace of God Toward All Those Who Are Anchored in Christ.

Responsive Congregational Reading

1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Ministers We Are, Each And Every One Of Us, That Is The Will Of God For The Christ Follower.

A perfect prayer from Paul for Peter and Each and Every One of Us.

Colossians 1:9 -14

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **10** that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God **11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Ministers – Each And Every One

1.) We need ENCOURAGEMENT to encourage others

vs.1

1 Peter 5:1-3

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

**He has not only called the Overseers / Elders / Pastors to Ministry,
But He has called us all to serve alongside one another.**

Ministers – Each And Every One

2.) We need LOVE to be loving others

vs. 2-3a

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you,

2a.) Love experienced is a love caring

vs. 2a

2b.) Love nurtured is a love maturing

vs. 2b

2c.) Love received is a love communicated

vs. 3a

Shepherd **grk:** poimaino; **to do what shepherds** do for sheep. (act like the shepherd) to shadow the shepherd as he cares, protects, presides over, watches out for, correcting. *(the word demands a hands-on approach to shepherding the flock. The structure requires that the shepherd(s) be alert, vigilant, standing guard over the flock – against perpetual dangers that abound)*

The Kings James Version puts it right

1 Peter 5:2

Feed / Shepherd the flock of God which is among you,

Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you shepherds according to My heart,
who will **feed you with** knowledge and understanding.

A New Testament Reality of This is...

1 Corinthians 9:16

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, **woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!**

All the shepherds activity falls under FEEDING.

“Feeding” Means Feeding Them Doctrine.

Feeding them “all things bible”

Our Lil’ Yorkie, Tiffany – she doesn't always recognize that she is hungry. Sometimes she just picks at her food. Sometimes she’s eager about it. Other times it’s like hosting a “Dinner and Show.”

Regardless – we make sure she eats!!!

Ministers – Each And Every One

3.) We need an example to be an example

vs. 3b-4

3b but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you (the elders) will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Ministers – Each And Every One

We Need An Example To Be An Example

3a.) Our example is the example

vs. 3b

3b but being examples to the flock

This is to be **Our Reason** for Ministering.

examples grk: **tu/poß** tupos; to emboss or to strike with a mark. the making of an impression, to stamp. To imprint upon something of authority or ownership. To make a model of or pattern of that which is the authority or proprietor.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Therefore I urge you, **imitate me.**

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also **imitate** Christ.

...and church history is replete with truly wonderful and awe-inspiring examples of men and women of God who have changed the world for Christ.

Such As The Early Church Fathers

Clement of Rome / Polycarp of Smyrna / Justin / Irenaeus / Augustine

William Wilberforce - Did you know that it was **William Wilberforce**, a Christian, who eventually put an end to the slave trade of Great Britain. William Wilberforce (1759-1833) was a Christian abolitionist who also served as a member of England's House of Commons. Wilberforce campaigned tirelessly for the abolition of slavery beginning in 1789. Forty-four years later, just before his death, he learned that Parliament passed the Abolition Act, by which 700,000 slaves were set free.

Telemachus, a Christian in Rome, on New Years Day January 1st. 404, went to the Coliseum in Rome and for the first time witnessed the Gladiatorial Games as one man slew another to death. **Telemachus** was so offended and enraged by the human carnage that he jumped down onto the arena and ran between two gladiators – stopping them where they stood and pleading with them he said; ***“This is not right. This cannot be right. This will never be right. Stop now this murdering.”*** It is unclear if the crowd or the gladiators proceeded to kill him but he was killed in his attempt to stop the killing. ***When the Rome emperor saw what had happened, he was so moved by his conscience that he ended the Gladiatorial Games forever.***

William Carey was born on the 17th of August 1761. Carey, would become known as the "father of the modern missionary". He was a minister of the Gospel, translator of the Bible, social reformer and cultural anthropologist who himself founded the Serampore College and the Serampore University, the first degree-awarding university in India. He put an end to the practice of Sati (Sau'ttee), which is the Hindu practice that requires the death of the wife upon the death of her husband. Most often the practice was by burning.

But The Bible Warns Us About “Bad Examples”

Philippians 3:18-19

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, (why are they?) whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things.

(2 Peter 2:1)

“There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you.”

Jude 1:4,10-11

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness ... But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

There is a greediness about them. There is a sense of entitlement in them. There is an insatiable hunger to possess – always to possess!

Ezekiel 34:1-2,10

The word of the Lord came to me: **2** “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? **3** You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. **10** This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

2 Timothy 2:1-2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things that **you have heard from me among many witnesses**, *(the example)* commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

There is an indelible image I have in my mind.
There is no greater ministry-example than this:

Acts 20:17-28

From Miletus he (Paul) sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. **18** And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, **19** serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; **20** how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, **21** testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **22** And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. **24** But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. **25** “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. **26**

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27
For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28
Therefore **take heed to yourselves and to all the flock**, among which the Holy
Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God
which He purchased with His own blood.

**The Christian (minister) is to “Be Like” or, if you will,
“Pretend” that we are just like Jesus in the Ministry.
Being a little Jesus Christ, like the original, to others. (imitators)**

1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may
have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in
this world.

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Deuteronomy 31:8 NLT

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you.
He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

Matthew 26:32 NLT

But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to **Galilee**
(university, work, marriage, prison, exile) and meet you there.”

I will go ahead of you to your University, your Workplace,
your Marriage, your Career.
Even to your prison cell - - I will meet you there.”

Ministers – Each And Every One

We Need An Example To Be An Example

3b.) Our motive is the example

vs. 4a

; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears,

This is to be **Our Motive** for Doing Anything / Everything.
It is the “WHEN” factor of the Lord’s return.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.

In John 10, He Is The Good Shepherd *who died in our place.*

In Hebrews 13, He Is The Great Shepherd *who rose from the dead.*

Here in 1 Peter 5:4, He Is The Chief Shepherd *who is returning.*

Ministers – Each And Every One

We Need An Example To Be An Example

3c.) Our example is the reward

vs. 4b

4b you (the pastors, overseers, elders) will receive
the crown of glory that does not fade away.

The “Always There Thought” in the Christian Mind is that
Jesus Christ, The Chief Shepherd is About to Appear –
So be Active & Finishing things up

There is a **Crown of Glory** that will be given.

Theologian Alexander Maclaren writes:

The **stephanos**, or Crown of Glory, was that crown which signified one as being
of a royal or exalted rank. The **stephanos** was the wreath or garland which
was given as a prize to victors in Greek and Roman public games.

The **stephanos** is the recognition given by Jesus Christ as a prize to the
genuine servant of God. The **stephanos** crown (wreath) will be the reward to
those who did righteousness. Their desire and faithfulness to honor Christ is
rewarded by Christ.

Matthew 6:20-21

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust
destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your
treasure is, there your heart will be also.

So What Does All This Mean To Me?
How Do I Apply This In My Life?

Revelation 22:12

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,
to give to every one according to his work

Hebrew 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **21** (1) make you complete in every good work to do His will, (2) working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Ezekiel 34:11-12

For thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. **12** “As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. **30** I and My Father are one.”

That’s The Question Today for You, for Us

End of Study

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