

1ST PETER

As Peter begins to draw his letter to a close, he once more directs his comments to some select groups of people in the Lord's church. Pay close attention to what he has to say to those who serve as elders.



CHAPTER 5: 1-5a

¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it 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 will never fade away. ^{5a} Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older.

Peter identifies himself as a 'fellow elder'. Considering Paul's instruction in 1st Timothy 3 and Titus 2 concerning the recognition and selection of elders, what are some things we know about Peter?

What had Peter witnessed and what was he expecting to see?

Peter refers to elders as "shepherds" and "overseers." What does that indicate to you about the duties of an elder?

Notice the importance Peter places upon elders as servants. How do you see elders serving in the church you attend?

Who is "the Chief Shepherd" and what does that title indicate?

Why might Peter have cautioned younger folks to be submissive to their elders?

Points to Ponder

How important do you think it is for a church to have elders?

Why would anyone want to be one?

Do you think we show ample respect to our elders by submitting to them as we should?

