

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”

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

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 (the elders) will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Peter Now Turns His Attention to Addressing the Leaders

Luke 22:24-27

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. 25 And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ 26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

Remembering Who The Hearers Were

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To **the pilgrims of the Dispersion** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

What comes to your mind when you hear the word

“minister”, “evangelist”, or “Christian worker”? What about “Pastor”?

There are many stereotypes these days as to what a Christian is.

The “Christian” as identified in this culture, at this time,
is anything but flattering. The Christianity today is viewed as an irritant.
There is only one thing more despised by the world and that is The Christian Minister.

**I’ll be honest. Here and among you, I’m delighted
to be called “Pastor”.**

In this audience it’s a badge of honor and I’m glad for it.

**But in the world, I must confess, I am not vocal about
my calling in an unbelieving world. Announcing that I’m a “pastor” is for
me, often an embarrassing thing.**

Hebrews 13:7

Remember (go back, comb over in your mind, ask yourself) those who **rule over you**, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey (have confidence in, trust them, listen to them, do as they say) **those who rule over you**, and be submissive, **for they watch out for your souls**, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:18

Pray for us.

Hebrews 13:24

Greet (acknowledge, salute, recognize) all those who **rule over you**,

Ministers – Each And Every One

1.) We need encouragement to encourage others

vs.1

Ministers – Each And Every One

We Need Encouragement To Encourage Others

1a.) Encouraged by God’s calling upon your life

vs. 1a

1a The elders who are among you I exhort,

Elders grk: **presbuteros**; the older one, the seasoned one. The scripturally grounded and matured one. Battle hardened.

Among grk: **en**; a prim. Preposition that denotes proximity. Location, position, placement, or the physical location of a person or a place.

Luke 22:27c

I am **among** you as the One who **serves**.

In Christ we see the most tender example

In Luke 7:34

Jesus is accused of being “a friend of common people, a friend of sinners and tax-collectors”

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, ***having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.***

John 10:10b-11

:10b I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
:11 “I am the good shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

The Christian Leader is to be **Among** the people,
not **Over** the people.

1 Corinthians 4:1-4

Let a man so consider us, as **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found **faithful**. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

huperetes; a slave assigned to a roman war galley (attack ship) as an under rower. The roman under-rower was as the name suggests, the man on the bottom row. On the bottom deck. A servant with unlimited duties. A servant of all.

The Roman War Galley

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/313844667763414253/>

Exhort grk: parakaleo; to call near and to keep calling near. to encourage and to keep encouraging. to challenge and to keep challenging.

To exhort is to instruct and to educate with a firm grip.
(**not on the neck** of the people – but on the truth of God.)

Ministers – Each And Every One

We Need Encouragement To Encourage Others

1b.) Encouraged by God’s inspiration in your life

vs. 1b

1b I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,
“I who am a fellow elder”
not especially high and not especially low – I’m among you.
(if Peter was the first pope – he didn’t know it)

In the last 100 to 150 years a westernized version of ministry has corrupted the church. That is the idea of having a single pastor over a flock. That is an unbiblical imposition that has come into the church. Biblically, a minister of Jesus Christ in the New Testament church was, is anyone who by virtue of the gifting of the Holy Spirit was either a preacher or a teacher or a helper of the Word of God. This is what the Bible teaches.

and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,
no human being saw Jesus Christ suffer more than Peter. Peter, remember followed Jesus into the Courtyard of the High Priest to “Watch the end”
Tragically – Peter was one of the greatest wounds to the heart of Jesus.
Three times Peter denounced ever knowing Jesus!

witness grk: martus; martyr. One who cannot deny what he knows is true. To possess a transcendent truth that is worthy of life and death.

Is your love for your wife or children worthy of your life?
Is your love of country worthy of your life?

sufferings grk: pathema; (not just the cross) but all that comes down upon you in life. that which befalls you, the suffering that visits us in life

Implying:
“all that life could throw at Jesus was thrown at Him
and He took every single challenge head-on and won.”

Romans 8:37-39

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors **through Him** who loved us.
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities
nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor
any other created thing, shall be able to **separate us** from the love of God
which is **in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Ministers – Each And Every One
We Need Encouragement To Encourage Others

1c.) Encouraged by God's unity for your life

vs. 1c

1c and also a partaker of "the glory" that will be revealed:

Ephesians 4:11-13

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

partaker grk: koinonos; united in sharing. united in partnering. United in moving in the same direction. (ie. a three legged race)

*There is no competition in the work of God
when everyone is serving the will of God.
– Warren Wiersbe*

glory grk: doxa; praise / brightness / majesty / honor / joy

revealed grk: apokalupto; to be suddenly uncovered, to be made seen.

End of Study

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