

1 Peter 5

Week 8 - Life And Leadership

? If you could meet any famous historical leader, who would you choose and why?

Read Out Loud: 1 Peter 5 (NIV)

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, 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.

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Mystery Woman

Peter greets the Christian churches of Asia Minor on behalf of "she who is in Babylon." Some scholars speculate that Peter may have been referring to his wife. And yet, most agree this "she" is more likely another local church, probably the Christian church in Rome.

Why Rome? For one thing, it is unlikely there was any church in the historical city of Babylon at this time. And, it is very likely Peter was writing this letter from Rome. Also, Peter's Jewish readers would recognize "Babylon" as the traditional metaphor for those opposed to God's people. Rome, in that time, was the geographical and political source of that opposition. Peter may have been protecting the Christians in Rome by using Babylon as a stand-in.

Source:

www.bibleref.com/1-Peter/5/1-Peter-5-13.html

? How does Peter's role as an elder lend credibility to the instruction he gives?

? How does Peter define leadership in the church?

? In verses 2-3, Peter shares a number of characteristics to expect from Christian leaders. Take a minute by yourself or in smaller groups to write down some ways the world views leadership and contrast them with the ways Christians should view leadership. Share your lists as a group, pointing out the similarities and differences.

How the world views leadership	How Christians should view leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••

? In what ways does submission to leadership look different as a follower of Christ?

? Share about a time when you submitted to leadership (in the church, at work, etc.). What made it ultimately a positive or negative experience?

? Are our elders and leaders beyond reproach? How can we test that their leadership lines up with God's desires?

? Verses 5-14 are addressed to all believers – both leaders and followers. What does it mean to “clothe yourselves with humility toward one another?”

? How do verses 9 and 10 encourage you to be a better leader while also submitting to the leaders in your life?

For Discussion And Accountability

? Within your different roles at Hope – whether you are in leadership or not – how are you fulfilling/adhering to Peter’s commands? How has this passage challenged you to change your behavior?

? Looking back at the book as a whole, 1 Peter gives us a lot of instructions on how to live in contrast to our culture. How has 1 Peter challenged the way you interact with the world?