

Love Your Church 6 Honouring

Bible Reading

1 Peter 5:1-5 (NIVUK)

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: 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; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because,

'God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.'

Questions

1 - What dangers does Peter want his readers to avoid – both elders and other members of the church?

2 - What is the purpose of elders and pastors seeking to lead in the way Peter instructs?

3 - What is the purpose of church members being "subject to the elders"?

4 - In what areas might people find it especially hard to submit to their elders? Have you had experiences of this kind of tension in church? What would humility, respect, and love look like in those situations?

5- In what ways are your elders and pastors a good example to you? How could you follow their example?

6 - What might encourage each of your elders and pastors this week? How could you help them keep in mind Peter's vision for leadership? What would you pray for them?