

# Shepherd the Flock of God

## 1 Peter 5:1-4

In today's text **1 Peter 5:1-4**, Peter will speak to the **leaders** in the **church**, the **shepherds** or pastor-**elders**. In just 4 short verses he lays out a **comprehensive** view of **church eldership**, and calls the **elders** to **shepherd** the **flock of God** as humble **servant** leaders. He will explain **who** is involved in **shepherding** and give a clear vision on **how** it should be **carried out**. He also gives the **motive** and reason for **why** it should be done, calling them to give an account to **Lord** Himself, the **Chief Shepherd**.

Today's text is **1 Peter 5:1-4**, where we will see

- **V-5:1 – Who of Shepherding**
- **V-5:2-3 – How of Shepherding**
- **V-5:4 – Why of Shepherding**

It is important to understand, from the **context** of the **New Testament**, that an "**elder**" is the **same person** who is also called, "**pastor or shepherd**," and elsewhere "**overseer**." Pastor, Shepherd, elder, overseer, bishop is all the same person in the Bible. This is seen very clearly right here in the context of 1 Peter 5. He says, "**1 I exhort the elders among you,...** **2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight.**" The elders, shepherd, and exercise oversight.

**Acts 20:17, 28** - 17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him **the elders of the church...** 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for 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.

NASB

**Acts 14:23** - 23 And when **they had appointed elders [plural] for them in every church[singular]**, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. NASB

John MacArthur comments- *"It is significant that Peter used the plural, elders. In reference to this ministry, the term always appears in the plural in the New Testament, affirming that the office was designed for a plurality of men. The plurality of godly leaders, as designed by the Lord, not only provides more ministry care but offers some important safeguards. First, it helps protect the church against error. No one was to speak or minister independently, teaching strictly on his own and not being accountable or subject to the knowledge of other teachers. 1 Corinthians 14:26-33. A plurality of elders in a local church also preserves it against imbalance. It is common that dominance by one leader results in his evil domineering over the flock, often with an over emphasis on some doctrine or practice that is out of harmony with the rest of scripture, exposing people to serious doctrinal error or unbiblical practice. A plurality of godly and gifted elders enriches the church since God does not give all the spiritual abilities to one man. The undue*

*elevation of one man above what is proper is an abuse against which a plurality of elders in the church safeguards. Finally, a plurality of elders avoids discontinuity in the church. When a man who has been the sole or dominant leader in a church leaves without ever developing fellow elders, there was no one able to replace him, resulting in a major disruption of ministry for the church. So, God designed the church to be Shepherded by a plurality of elders." End quote.*

**1 Peter 1:7** - 7 that **the proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, **may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**; NASB

**Matthew 20:25-28** - 25 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. **26 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give His life a ransom for many. " NASB

**1 Peter 5:2-3** - 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. **NIV**

**1 Timothy 4:11-16** - 1 Prescribe and teach these things. **12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.** 13 Until I come, **give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.** 14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. **15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.** **16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things;** for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. NASB

**John 10:14, 27-28** - 14 "**I am the good shepherd;** and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.... **27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.** NASB

**Hebrews 13:17** - 17 Obey your leaders, and submit to them; **for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account.** Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. NASB

**Revelation 22:12-13** - 12 "Behold, **I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.** 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." NASB

**1 Peter 1:13** - 13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, **fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.** NASB