



Lesson #16: Instructions for Church Leaders (1 Peter 5:1-4)

There is a bit of reverent trepidation this morning as I approach the text before us. As a pastor I have a responsibility to not be casual, cavalier, or breezy about the exhortations we will find. Good churches led by good pastors are hard to find. What makes a healthy church? Many Scriptural elements could be listed. Especially important is a strong commitment to God's Word. But what makes that commitment? The answer is, strong biblical _____.

There are many who find themselves confused concerning the expectations placed upon the pastor. Here is a position that is well-known, often in front, but sometimes bringing with it many confused thoughts about what the pastor's _____ really is. There are exhortations found in 1 Peter 5 that are addressed specifically to the elders. I think these exhortations are well for all of us to consider so that we can have clarity and be more prayerful and discerning as to what it is that the Spirit of God expects of the pastor. **The healthy church _____ what God expects from their pastor.**

IN A HEALTHY CHURCH THE PASTOR HAS

A _____ (5:1)

A very special title is given to this person who serves in the pastoral office. As we look at this text there is woven together three important titles for him.

- V. 1 – The idea of an _____ is conveyed
- V. 2a – The idea of a _____ is conveyed
- V. 2b – The idea of a _____ is conveyed

The Spirit of God is weaving together these three common descriptors from the NT that all refer to the one who serves in pastoral ministry.

- A. The pastor is given this title because of his _____**
This text knows nothing about _____; it knows everything about spiritual maturity. The term "elder" focuses on the character qualities of the man, that he is a mature man of God.
- B. The pastor is given this title because he is _____ of others**
Peter models what he is exhorting: he does not lord over these men. Peter says I want to talk with you with a personal appeal on a level as _____. He is literally smashing here any idea of denominational hierarchy. There is no political preeminence as Peter writes to his fellow elders.

- C. The pastor is given this title because he points to the _____**
"I have been a witness of the sufferings of Christ." This was the most _____ thing to him. The Gospel was of tantamount value.

IN A HEALTHY CHURCH THE PASTOR HAS

A _____ (5:2)

Peter next lays out for the _____ for the pastor to perform.

- A. He is ready to _____ the flock**
This is a heavenly and high priority given to the pastor. He is to be ready in _____. If the pastor would feed the flock he must be well fed on the Word. According to Acts 6 this is why the _____ were given to the church. They are there to assist the pastor and take the load of visitation off him so that the pastor may be given to the Word.
- B. He is ready to _____ the flock**
The pastor is to "take the oversight thereof" (5:2). This is the Greek word *episokpos*. It literally means "to _____ upon something." A pastor is a man who has a broad view of the church. Though some pastors will shirk their responsibilities as _____ this is not the biblical expectation or exhortation. The pastor is to lead.

IN A HEALTHY CHURCH THE PASTOR HAS

A _____ (5:3-4)

Three warnings are issued here. Warnings against typical failures of pastors.

- A. The pastor is not to be _____**
Laziness is really a lust for _____ and _____ and ease. Peter challenges pastors not to be sluggish or unconcerned. You must not have to have someone else beside you to push you along ("*not by constraint*"). God wants men in the ministry who are self-starters.
- B. The pastor is not to be _____**
Greed is really the lust for _____. This would apply especially towards those who make their living in the ministry. Do not look at your pastoral role as a means of making a _____. The pastor is not to be motivated by money but rather must have a ministry mindset.
- C. The pastor is not to be _____**
Pride is the lust for power and prestige. Pride is the failure to realize deeply that without Christ we are _____. So often those who are placed in positions of authority are prone to getting a big head.

Concluding Thoughts

There is no _____ pastor. There is, for that matter, no perfect church. But there are certain expectations that God places upon those pastors who would lead a healthy church. Peter ends this second by offering hope for the elders. If they will follow these exhortations they "*will receive a _____ of glory that fadeth not away*" (5:4).