

**Pastoring with Godliness**  
**(1 Pet 5.1-5; 09-27-20am)**

**Elder (pastor):** Spiritual leader in the congregation who provides comprehensive leadership for the church

**Central Thought:** Pastors are called to shepherd with godliness and with love (cf. v2-3)

**I. A high calling for pastors (1-4)**

A. The audience (1) *elders among you*

B. The charge (2-3) *shepherd the flock; exercising oversight* (cf. Ps 23; John 10)

C. The blessing (4) *unfading crown of glory*

One question members often have about elders has to do with accountability? Who oversees the *overseers*?

- 1) *Chief Shepherd* primary accountability of the pastor is to Jesus
- 2) Plural reference to *elders* implies mutual accountability among elders (often private, among elders)
- 3) 1 Timothy 5.19-20 provides a mechanism to serve as accountability for sin before whole church

**II. A holy character for pastors (2-3)** (cf. 1 Pet 4.11)

*not under compulsion, but willingly; not for gain, but eagerly; not domineering, but by example*

A. Unpacking godly shepherding do's & don'ts are character-related, not task-related

1. Pastors will *shepherd* not because they have to, but because they want to
2. Pastors will *shepherd* not to receive some tangible personal benefit for themselves, but because (1) they are called to do so (implied); (2) and they are excited [*eager*] to do so
3. Pastors will *shepherd* not as the boss in the penthouse, but, as a co-laborer – fully engaged with the congregation, showing them how to live for Christ

B. Identifying godly character (cf. 1 Tim 3.1-7; Titus 1.6-9)

### III. Humble cooperation begets a healthy church (5)

#### A. Humble pastors *clothe themselves with humility*

##### 1. Exercise oversight in glad and sacrificial ways (2-3)

Humility helps fight against “isolation-drag” or losing a desire to be in the lives of the members

Humility helps fight against “ambition-creep” for greater entitlement of office or vain-glory

Humility helps fight against “duty-drift” in the pastor’s attitude when progress doesn’t come

##### 2. Serve in anticipation of the coming reward (4) *unfading crown of glory*

Humility longs to hear the words of Jesus: *well done good/faithful servant; enter into joy of Master*

##### 3. Invite the favor and grace of God (5) *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

Humility loves the holiness of the church more than the honor of pastoring the church

#### B. Humble church members *clothe themselves with humility*

##### 1. Will receive the oversight of their pastors with a spirit of cooperation and gratitude (2-3) (Heb 13.17)

Humility equips members to be grateful for God’s gifting, and the opportunity to use it in the church

1 Cor 12.7: *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good*

Humility equips members to be content with place or office, under sovereign wisdom & will of God

##### 2. Will understand the weight their pastor bears and delight that his eternal crown is coming (4)

Heb 13.17 will expound on what it means to want what is kind & good & encouraging for pastors

##### 3. Will invite God’s grace upon themselves and the church (5) *God opposes proud/gives grace to humble*

Humility will feed a desire to follow and cooperate; to consider others more significant than ourselves

Humility nurtures a spirit of prayer that seeks the Lord’s favor on the church

Humility calibrates our consciences to detect pride and to push back against it, in power of Holy Spirit

Humility trembles at the notion of being opposed by God.

Tom Schreiner: “humility is the oil that allows relationships in the church to run smoothly and lovingly”