

## Leading & Being Led

### 1 Peter 5:1-11

Peter begins the last section of this letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter with some words of exhortation for those who lead in the Church – elders/deacons/pastors

- You are not alone – **“to the elders among you...”, “As a fellow elder...”**
- **Check the rearview mirror** - **“As a witness of the sufferings of Christ...”**
- Keep your eyes ahead, beyond what is right now in front of you – **“As a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed...”**

Following Jesus in a hostile world, & leading well, requires this three-fold perspective. **If all we see is the trial in front of us, we will not prevail!**

#### Our Consistory has led well during this difficult season of Covid 19!

- From day one of this pandemic, our perspective has always been **“We are in this together**, & God has appointed us for such a time as this!”
- Our rearview mirror has continually been our 2000 + year old Scriptures. They have remind us of the trials of those who have gone before us, & the perspective God’s track record gives for facing our trials today!
- **We never allowed the immediate distract us from the eternal!** Looking ahead to our future glory always empowers great leaps of faith today!

Can we take a moment to celebrate the Lord who is our Good Shepherd, who has protected, provided, & empowered us over these last 15 months?

**Can we also celebrate the under shepherds our elders/deacons/pastors** who have been God’s instruments of leadership here at BRC during this trial?

Peter lays out for leaders a template to follow & I can testify that the leaders God has raised up for our church at this time are living this out!

- 1) **“Shepherd the flock of God that is among you”** – As the consistory of BRC, we acknowledge that those under our care are God’s flock, not our own! **Therefore, we must lead/feed/care for them in His ways, not ours.**
- 2) **“Exercising oversight”** – Over all the sheep in our care! **At times we acted on behalf of the well-being of the “1”, at the expense of the “99”.**
- 3) **“Not under compulsion”** – Our leadership team is a board of volunteers. They lead not out of obligation, but out of a deep desire to serve!
- 4) **“but willing”** – **Always with leadership comes scrutiny!** Our decisions are not always popular, but our leaders have always shown a willingness to make the hard decisions despite the scrutiny that may follow!

- 5) **“As God would have you”** – Following God’s leadership/Word/example has been our #1 aim. With Covid, our governor & the CDC have informed our decisions, but **God’s Word is what has directed our steps!**
- 6) **“Not for shameful gain, but eagerly”** – We weren’t always eager to make the decisions that needed to be made, but we were eager to shepherd God’s people well here at BRC. Yes, in leadership decisions can be made for shameful gain, but that’s not the way of those eager to serve God.
- 7) **“Not domineering over those in your charge, but being an example to the flock”** – I have witnessed in our consistory an amazing display of love & grace towards our church family. This has been a hard season, but **the example our leaders have set, have shown to be contagious!**

What is the reward for such Godly leadership? **“When the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”** **“Well done...”**

What should be the response of the flock under the care of such leadership?

- 1) **“You who are younger, be subject to the elders”** – This is not just an age distinction! There are young leaders that are “elders” spiritually!
- 2) **“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another”** – **Not everyone is called to a leadership office in the church, but every one of us is called to practice humility** – putting the needs of others above our own!  
**“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”** Enough said!  
**“At the proper time He will exalt you”** if... you **“Humble yourselves!”**
- 3) **“Cast all your anxieties (worries, stresses, struggles) on Him, because He cares for you.”** Part of being humble is admitting you are in need!
- 4) **“Be sober minded”** – Don’t get carried away by every news headline, gossip chain, or inclination of your own heart that is easily led astray!
- 5) **“Be watchful”** – Be alert & ready, anticipating the attacks of the evil one. **“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”**

**We are most in danger when we are alone, injured, & distracted.** We are safest when we are in communion with other believers, when we come to the Great Physician for healing, & when we are focused, not on earthly things, but the things of eternity! Then we can respond – **Vs. 9**

If we live this way, as leaders & those led, **God gives a promise** – **Vs. 10-11**

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