

1 PETER

How Does God Shape His People?

Trinity Dallas Study Notes

1 Peter: How Does God Shape His People?

Part Six – 1 Peter, Chapter 5

1 Peter can be divided into three sections:

1. Salvation – 1 Peter 1:1-2:10
2. Submission – 1 Peter 2:11-3:12
3. Suffering – 1 Peter 3:13-5:14

1 Peter 5:1-14

Elders Shepherd the Flock

¹ *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:*

- Elders are the leaders of the local church. There are several Biblical qualifications for this role, but the first is in the name, “elder” it literally means “older.
- Peter says:
 1. He is fellow elder (*presbyteros*)
 2. He is a witness of Christ’s suffering
 3. He shares in the coming glory
- Elder = Gr. *Presbyteros*

² *Shepherd the flock of God, which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain.*

- Shepherd the flock – Lead, Feed, Protect, Guide
- The flock belongs to God, therefore, take good care of them
- Overseer/Bishop = Gr. *Episkopos*

³ *nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock:*

- Shepherds should take care of the sheep, not begrudgingly, but willingly, eager and not as bullies and not for dishonest gain

- Eldering is a serious undertaking
- Elders will be held accountable for their work, so no one should be forced to do it

⁴ *and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

- There is glory that will not fade away awaiting you

Saints Humble Yourselves

⁵ *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

- God is at enmity (war) with the proud but has favor for the humble
- All of us are commanded to submit to one another and put on the apron of humility and service

⁶ *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you*

- “Humble yourself”
- Throw all your worries, anxieties, fears and trepidations on Him
- God is caring and has an intimate concern for all of His children

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

- The devil was attempting to destroy the infant church through persecution, so the early leaders were to be on alert about the goings-on of their adversary

⁹ *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

- Don’t run, don’t panic, don’t fear
- Apply a firm and steady resistance to the devil and all his schemes
- The war you face is not just you...but to all our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Benediction – The Utterance and Bestowal of a Blessing

¹⁰ *But may the God all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen*

- perfect: to make you complete
- establish, to put you in order
- strengthen, to make you strong
- and settle you, to make you steadfast on a firm foundation

Final Words

¹² *By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.*

- With the help of Silvanus, I write you and urge you to stand in the grace of God which we all need and none of us have earned or merited

¹³ *She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.*

- **She** = Peter's wife? Or the Church?
- **Babylon** = a town in Egypt? Or Rome?
- **Mark** = Peter's own son? Or perhaps John Mark?

¹³ *Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

- Peter's first letter begins with PEACE and ends with PEACE.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who do you view as an elder in the modern-day church?
2. In 1 Peter 5:10, God says that after you have suffered awhile, He will perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. Which one of these (perfect, establish, strengthen or settle) is most meaningful to you? Which gives you the most hope or the most dread?
3. Share some examples in your life of how God has perfected, established or strengthened you after you have suffered a while
4. How has God settled you after a period of suffering?