

The Book of FIRST PETER

Chapter 5

“Fellowship, Faith & Friends!”

D) OUR FELLOWSHIP! (v1-7)

(v1-3) Exhortation to *Elders*:

#1- Shepherd the flock- John 10:18 - “*Jesus is the good shepherd*” (Shepherds are to tend, feed, guide & guard the sheep.)

#2- Serving as overseers:

> Wrong heart

- not by compulsion

- not for dishonest gain

- not a tyrant or lord

- Peter step into my office- John 21:15-22 - CHRISTIAN LEADERS are to *Feed His lambs, Tend His sheep, Feed His sheep.*

- What reward is given by the Chief Shepherd? A crown of glory

> Right heart

- willingly

- eagerly

- be an example

(v5-7) “Younger People” are- to *submit* to the elders and all Christians are to *submit* to one another. Definition: “*Submit*”- *To give into or surrender to another’s authority.*

(**Insight:** There are two interpretations regarding “younger” one is a young person in age; whereas, the other is younger Christian maturity. *Beacon’s Bible Commentary* gives insight to *submission*, “The emphasis on submission to duly constituted leadership is always in order, but especially in times of stress when there is a tendency on the part of some individuals and groups to feel that the leadership is “not sufficiently vigorous in its reaction to the crisis.” The elder must serve; the younger must submit; but all are to be clothed with *humility*. This garment is to be so securely fastened that nothing can strip it from us. *Humility* produces a proper attitude toward one another and toward all Christian duties, however menial they may be. This seems to allude to our Lord’s girding himself and washing the disciples’ feet (cf. John 13:1-9)—an occasion when impetuous Peter learned a valuable lesson in humility.)

- We are all to be clothed with *humility*. Definition: “*Humility*”- *Marked by meekness or modesty; unpretentious; lowly.*

- We are to “cast all cares upon Him”- *The word “cast is the translation of a word that means “having deposited with.” It refers here to a direct and once-for-all committal to God of all that would give us concern. The words “for he cares for you” can be translated literally, “for it is a care to Him concerning you,” or “for you are His concern.” Anxiety is a self-contradiction to true humility. Unbelief is, in a sense, an exalting of self against God in that one is depending upon self and failing to trust God. Why worry therefore, if we are His concern. He is more concerned about our welfare than we could possibly be. Furthermore, since the humbling process has been allowed to come to us in the permissive will of God, and He is using it to accomplish His purpose in our lives, he has it under His control and us in His care. In it all He is concerned about us, therefore, why worry.*
(*Read Matthew 6:25-34; Psalm 37*)

II) OUR FAITH! (v8-11)

- Is to be **Sober**- “mentally self-controlled”
- Is to be **Vigilant**- “watchful”
- Who is the enemy of our faith? The *devil*. (Peter’s personal dealings with the devil – Matthew 16:21-23; Luke 22:31-34.)
- We are called to *resist* the devil and be steadfast in the *faith*.

James 4:7 says, “*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*”

How did Jesus defeat the devil- Matthew 4:1-10 “*It is written . . . It is written . . . It is written,*”

What are the results of suffering? There is a perfecting, establishing, strengthening & a settling!

III) OUR FRIENDS! (v12-14)

Five keys to grrrrrrreat friendships!

#1- Be a faithful brother or sister.

#2- Be an encouraging brother or sister.

#3- Be a witness of the true grace of God.

#4- Love one another! (“Holy kiss”)

#5- Be a peacemaker!

➤ To the CHRISTIAN you have received:

A love that cannot be fathomed,

A life that cannot die,

A righteousness that cannot be tarnished,

A peace that cannot be understood,

A rest that cannot be disturbed,

A joy that cannot be diminished,

A hope that cannot be disappointed,

A light that cannot be interrupted,

A strength that cannot be enfeebled,

A purity that cannot be defiled,

A beauty that cannot be marred,

A wisdom that cannot be baffled,

Resources that cannot be exhausted.

Memory Verse: “*Casting all your cares upon Him for He cares for you.*”- 1 Peter 5:7

EXTRA CREDIT:

Developing Your Leadership Skills

(From the book *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders)

- 1- Have you ever broken a bad habit? To lead others, you must master your appetites.
- 2- Do you keep self-control when things go wrong? The leader who loses control under adversity forfeits respect and influence. A leader must be calm in crisis and resilient in disappointment.
- 3- Do you think independently? A leader must use the best ideas of others to make decisions. A leader cannot wait for others to make up his or her mind.
- 4- Can you handle criticism? Can you profit from it? The humble person can learn from petty criticism, even malicious criticism.
- 5- Can you turn disappointment into creative new opportunity?
- 6- Do you readily gain the cooperation of others and win their respect and confidence?
- 7- Can you exert discipline without making a power play? True leadership is an internal quality of the spirit and needs no show of external force.
- 8- Are you a peacemaker? A leader must be able to reconcile with opponents and make a peace where arguments have created hostility.
- 9- Do people trust you with difficult and delicate situations?
- 10- Can you induce people to do happily some legitimate thing that they would not normally wish to do?
- 11- Can you accept opposition to your viewpoint or decision without taking offense? Leaders always face opposition.
- 12- Can you make and keep friends? Your circle of loyal friends is an index of your leadership potential.
- 13- Do you depend on the praise of others to keep you going? Can you hold steady in the face of disapproval and even temporary loss of confidence?
- 14- Are you at ease in the presence of strangers? Do you get nervous in the presence of your superior?
- 15- Are the people who report to you generally at ease? A leader should be sympathetic and friendly.
- 16- Are you interested in people? All types? All races? No prejudice?
- 17- Are you tactful? Can you anticipate how your words will affect a person?
- 18- Is your will strong and steady? Leaders cannot vacillate or cannot drift with the wind.
- 19- Can you forgive? Or do you nurse resentments and harbor ill feelings toward those who have injured you?
- 20- Are you reasonably optimistic? Pessimism and leadership do not mix.
- 21- Do you feel a master passion such as that of Paul, who said, "This one thing I do!" Such a singleness of motive will focus your energies and powers on the desired objective. Leaders need a strong focus.
- 22- Do you welcome responsibility?

A final note: How we handle relationships tells a lot about our potential for leadership. R. E. Thompson suggests these tests:

- Do other people's failures annoy or challenge you?
- Do you "use" people, or cultivate people?
- Do you direct people, or develop people?
- Do you criticize, or encourage?
- Do you shun or seek out the person with a special need or problem?