

A photograph of two men silhouetted against a sunset sky. They are standing on a large rock. The man on the left is pointing his right arm towards the horizon. The man on the right has his arms crossed. The background shows a sunset over a body of water with hills in the distance.

Practicing the Presence of God or Christian Leadership

1 Peter

5:1-11

Our Journey Through 1 Peter

Hope:

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ^{NRS} 1 Peter 1:3b

Holiness:

Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ^{NRS}

1 Peter 1:15

Identity, “Who Am I?”:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

NRS **1 Peter 2:9**

Christian Leadership

Leadership Is Influence





**We all have our own
sphere of influence,
thus we are all leaders.**

Two Inextricable Questions:

- 1. How much does God influence you?**
- 2. How much do we influence others for God?**

The level of influence that God has on us, is directly proportionate, to the level of influence we have on others, for God.

Peter Urges Elders to Tend the Flock of God



Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it-- not for sordid gain but eagerly.

NRS 1 Peter 5:1-2

Peter's Credential's

Elder: presbu,teroj (presbuteros)

The most experienced, who have earned influence with other followers of Jesus Christ. Usually older in age.

Witness: ma,rtuj (martus): *Eyewitness*

One who shares in the glory to be revealed

Peter's Exhortation to Other Elders

Tend to the flock of God...



Exercising oversight

Willingly

As God would have you do it

Honestly and eagerly

**Do not lord it over those in your charge,
but be examples to the flock.** ^{NRS} 1 Peter 5:3

Do not lord over...

**Not superior, but equal. Simply a fellow
member of the flock. A fellow worker.**

Be an example:

**Not a do it all, but an example, a teacher,
an equipper.**

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ^{NRS}

Ephesians 4:11-13

And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

NRS 1 Peter 5:4

Chief shepherd: Jesus Christ



The Crown of Glory: The prize at the end of the race.

Crown: ste,fanoj, (stephanos)



A Word On Shepherding



Feeding: “Feed my lambs”

Watering: Pointing to the Holy Spirit

**Grooming: Equipping for purity the
practicing of spiritual disciplines**

**Shearing: Teaching spiritual maturity
through good stewardship**

Delivering: Evangelism

Leading: Pointing to the Lord at every opportunity

Wandering Sheep: Seek them out; bring them back.

Protection: Prayer and teaching about the armor of God

Peter Speaks to Those Who Are Younger

In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders.

NRS 1 Peter 5:5a

Elders (leaders) are to act as mentors, do their part, and the young are to accept their authority and learn.

Peter Speaks to All

And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5a (see Proverbs 3:34)

evgkombo,omai (egkomboomai)

A rare word referring to a slave putting on an apron before serving

Christian Leadership

Jesus (The Chief Shepherd)

Pastor, Teacher, Apostle,
Evangelist, Prophet
(Primary Support/Equipping Team)

Elders



Mutual Respect

Young
People

Christ is the chief shepherd who feeds us, and equips us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we move from infant (younger) disciple, to mature (elder) disciple. *(Usually, with the help of elders who are special equippers, such as pastors, teachers, apostles, evangelists and prophets).*



The elder, is then in a position to humbly take authority, and to teach the younger. The younger, humbly recognizes their need to be equipped, and submits to the teaching of the elder.



God's Plan for Equipping and Developing the Kingdom of God Here on Earth

**By the grace, guidance and
empowerment of God--Elders do it
Elders do it---and the younger watch
*(Equipping/Mentoring)***

**The younger do it---and the elders watch
*(Apprenticing)***

**The younger do it--- eventually becoming
the elders *(Practicing)***

It Begins and Ends With Practicing the Presence of God

Remember the two opening questions?

- 1. How much does God influence you?**
- 2. How much do we influence others for God?**

The level of influence that God has on us, is directly proportionate, to the level of influence we have on others, for God.

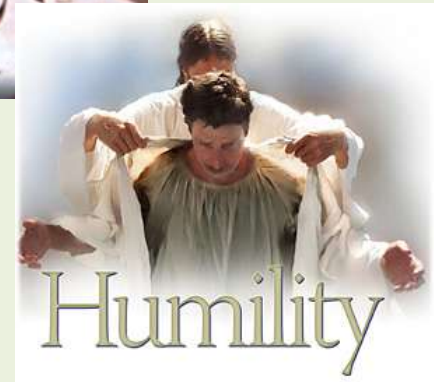
**Effective, Equipping
Elders, are Radically
Influenced by God**

Becoming Equipped and Equipping Elders, Called to Eternal Glory in Christ;

Humility that Leads to Exaltation

Humble yourselves
therefore under the
mighty hand of God, so
that he may exalt you
in due time. ^{NRS}

1 Peter 5:6



Trust that God Cares for You

**Cast all your anxiety on him, because he
cares for you. ^{NRS} 1 Peter 5:7**

Dear Lord,

I cast all my cares upon You

I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet

And anytime that I don't know what to do

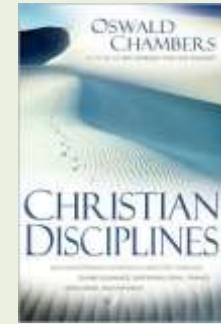
I will cast all my cares upon You

In Jesus Precious Name, Amen

Discipline of the Faithful

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ^{NRS} 1 Peter 5:8-9

Discipline yourselves, keep alert.



Resist the Devil.



Be steadfast in your faith.



God's Restoring, Supporting, Strengthening Grace

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. ^{NRS} 1 Peter 5:10-11

The Elder who is equipped by God, becomes an equipper for God, and a major influence (leader) to those around them, producing new leaders along the way.

We all have our own sphere of influence, thus we are all leaders. Isn't it time we claim ours.

Let Us Pray

