



November 15, 2020
"Caring for Hurting People"
1 Peter 5:1-5
Pastor Nate Aanderud

1st Peter is designed to give an eternal perspective to people who are suffering and encountering trials. The recipients of the letter were called to see trials as a means of refining their faith and as an opportunity to imitate Christ as **"an example, that you might follow in His steps."** Trials are opportunities to practice new ways of reacting to our circumstances ~ to not lash out in anger or vengefulness, but instead to remember our collective identity as **"a chosen race, a royal priesthood"** (*1 Peter 2:9*). With this in mind, Peter instructs his readers to subject themselves to authorities and humble themselves even if it means suffering: slaves to honor masters, masters to honor the emperor, wives to honor husbands, husbands to serve their wives, etc. In *chapter 5* Peter turns to address church leaders (elders) and their unique sufferings as well.

**Who in your life has modeled for you how godly church leaders treat others?
What was it about that person's behavior or attitude that impressed you?**

In *Chapter 5*, Peter begins by reminding his readers that he witnessed first-hand how Christ suffered for His bride. He reminds the church elders that, like Christ, they are shepherds.

Read *John 10:11-15* where Jesus refers to Himself as the Shepherd.

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed help and a leader came towards you rather than backing away from your neediness? If yes, share your experience with the group.

Being a leader of any group of people ~ including God's people ~ is challenging. Even Moses got frustrated with the thirsty and murmuring Israelites in *Numbers 20:10-11*.

What temptations is Peter warning elders to be careful of in *1 Peter 5:2-3*?

What reward awaits church elders who bear the sufferings of church leadership and the challenges of leading the people of God? (v 4)

Jesus explains His design for godly leadership in *Matthew 20:25-28*. Read these verses aloud.
How does serving others remedy the temptations of *1 Peter 5:2-3*?

Verse 5 holds the key for healthy church relationships. Peter quotes James (the brother of Christ) in *v 5*: **"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."** (see *James 4:6*)

How do we "clothe ourselves with humility toward one another"?

**God is against the proud but will lavish His favor on the humble.
How does this truth encourage you to clothe yourself with humility?**

Has there been a time in your experience at RHCC when God enabled you to choose humility rather than pride, defiance, anger, or another fleshly response?

How can you encourage others to rely on God's grace for the humility we all need?

We can choose to focus on the talents or inadequacies of our church leaders, or we can choose to focus on God's ability to deal with the proud, give grace to the humble, lead His church according to His will, and to provide for all that the church needs.

How can you encourage, pray or support our church leaders?