

# The Importance of Right Relationships



**I Pt. 5:1 - 14**

Mt. 22:37 – 40, “Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*”<sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment.<sup>39</sup> And *the* second is like it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**Second only to our Relationship with God,  
is our relationships with our fellow man.**

# Getting Right with God ....

## Getting Right with Our Fellow Man

- This is the bottom line of the message of the Bible.
- Sometimes we place great importance upon getting right with God, that we can and do over look our responsibility to the second command.
- Fact: we cannot be right with God, if we are not right with our fellow man.

# **I. The Relationship of Elders With their Local Congregations**

- Elders are Overseers of the Members of their congregations.
- Overseer is one who cares for and protects their members Spiritual lives.

I Pt. 5:1 – 4, “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: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”



# The responsibilities of Elders:

- They must oversee the Church (Responsible for)  
An Elders office is functional rather than honorary. Theirs is one of service.
- They must use their authority in the right way and with proper motivation.  
They must be willing to lead & serve (they must have a servant's heart)
- They must lead by their example, not from their position (so they will already be doing the work)

# **Elders are to Lead Others, not Lord over them**

Hebs. 13:17 says that members are to “obey their leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.”

# Jesus explained his attitude toward Spiritual leadership in Matthew

Mt. 20:25 – 28, “But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -- <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”



# **Elders have the Authority: to Serve, Minister, Oversee others**

- They do not have the authority to: boss, Lord, Coerce, and otherwise throw around their title or position.
- The Christian Members submit to them as a Sheep would their Shepherd.

## **II. Christians Getting Along With One Another**

Second, Peter spoke to the more general matter of right relationships among the members of a congregation

# Respect for Older Members

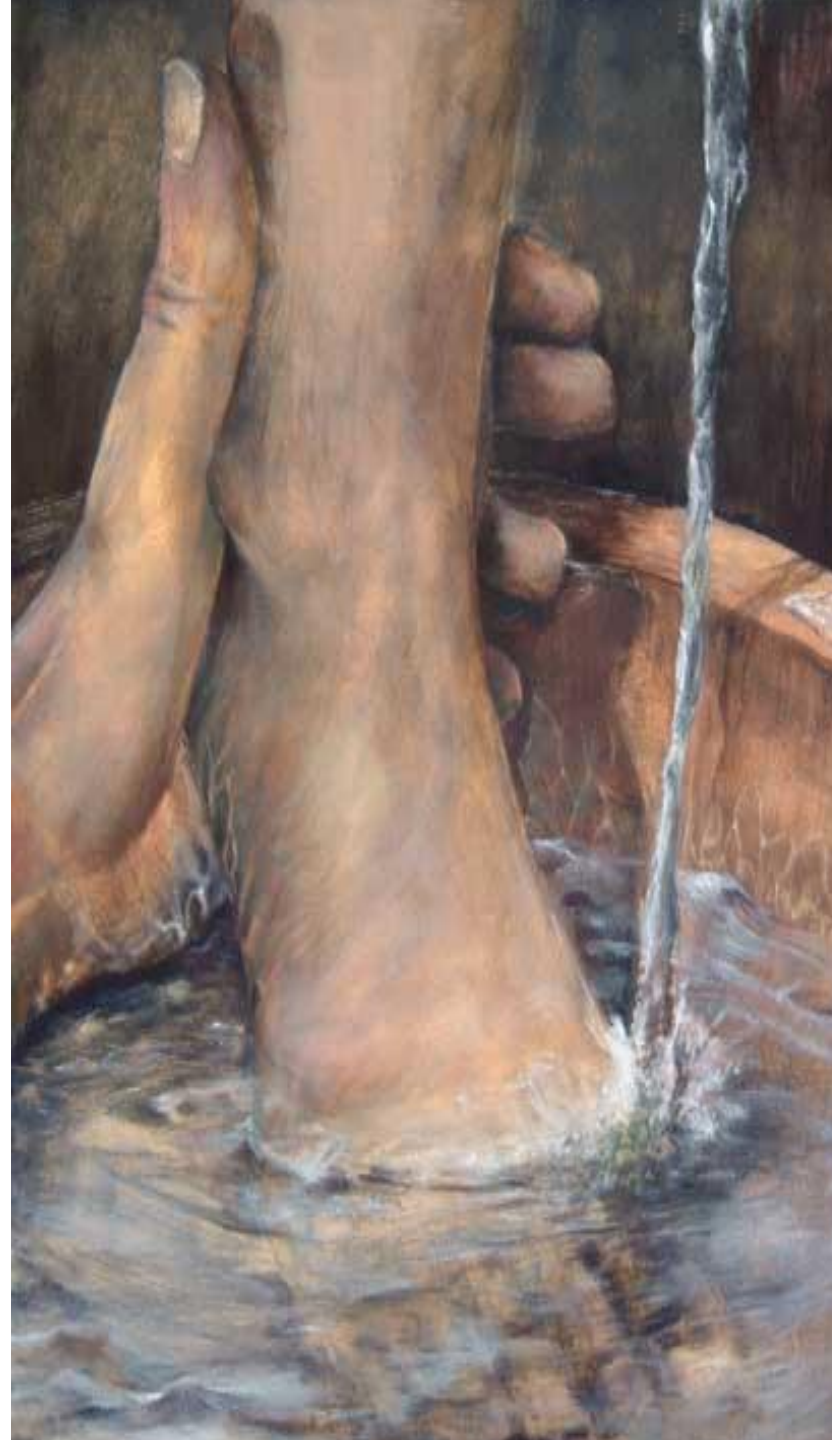


1 Pt. 5:5, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*”

# Humility

I Pt. 5:5-6, “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.”*”

<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time”



# Calm Assurance



1 Pt. 5:7, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”



# Vigilance

1 Pt. 5:8-9, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”



### III. Peter speaks about some Personal Relationship of His

I Pt. 5:10 - 11, “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. <sup>11</sup> To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

# Notice the very beautiful progression in his prayer:

- The Greek word translated here refers to the healing of something broken or the supplying of something that is lacking.
- The point is that God can and does use Suffering to enrich a Christians life of Faith.
- By virtue of the experience of Suffering, the Lord will make the Christian who endures Firm & Secure in His presence.

The individual who does not exercise his body will grow flabby and weak; exercise and discipline can and will restore muscle tone & firmness.



The same is true of our Spiritual lives.

Faith that comes through Loss and Pain can make us stronger & more secure in our relationship with God.



The Christians Endurance through suffering, allows God to make them **STEADFAST** in their relationships with Him.



Peter closes his first Epistle with these words:

I Pt. 5:12 – 14, “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. <sup>13</sup> She who is in Babylon, elect together with *you*, greets you; and *so does* Mark my son. <sup>14</sup> Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.”