

***First Peter – Then and Now***  
**(Lesson # 11 – Conduct in the Church)**  
**Scripture – 1 Peter 5:11-7**

**Introduction**

- A. There is no question about the importance of the Church to God.

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.* Acts 20:28

*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.* Ephesians 5:25,26

- B. The Church is composed of people. Make the above verses personal – put your name in them.

**I. How Should Pastors Conduct themselves in the Church? 1 Peter 5:1-4**

- A. Peter's introduction – the basis for his exhortation. V1

Peter probably refers to himself as an elder to remind other elders that he knows the problems they face. His reference to Christ's sufferings (his darkest hour), when he could speak of the Transfiguration, or the Resurrection – indicates his emphasis on mercy and grace. His confidence in sharing in the coming glory may refer to the reality of full restoration.

- B. His positive exhortations: *Be shepherds – be overseers – be examples – eager to serve.* Vs 2,3

The reference to “*God's flock*” indicates the importance of the Church to God. We are His creation and belong to Him. The fact that He has assigned leaders such as *Elders, Overseers, Shepherds, Deacons* over us emphasizes that truth.

*Be Shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers* – defines the ministry of a Church leader. (Care for the people in the Church as a true shepherd and overseer.) (1)

*Being examples to the flock* points to The Golden Rule and reminds a pastor not to demand what he is not willing to do. (2)

- C. His negative exhortations: *Not because you must, not greedy, not lording it over ....* Vs 2,3

Such warnings again reflect God's care for His people. They are reminders to leaders to consider their relationship with Him first, and then the people. (3)

- D. His promise: *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory.* V4

The reference to the Lord Jesus as *Chief Shepherd* would indicate His position as the one in charge of all other shepherds. Again a reminder the pastor is accountable primarily to Him. (4)

In Peter's day crowns were tokens of achievement (athletes), bravery (soldiers), and a distinguished office (kings). A *crown of glory* – would indicate some type of permanent recognition of a job well done. Such recognition would be given out when the Lord Jesus returns. It's a further indication of various levels of reward in Heaven. (5)

## II. How Should Young Men Conduct Themselves in the Church? 1 Peter 5:4A

The exhortation – *be submissive to those who are older*, would have special relevance to the trials these believers were experiencing. Perhaps many fathers had, or would soon, be arrested, imprisoned or killed. Peter is holding – *those who are older* – to be responsible to teach, guide and be a good example to the – *young men*. He is also holding the – *young men* – responsible to – *be submissive* to their leadership

## III. How Should All Believers Conduct Themselves in the Church? 1 Peter 5:5-7

- A. The basis of the exhortations: *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

1. The warning: *God opposes the proud.*

The implication: pride leads us to trust ourselves, be arrogant, self-confident and working for our own recognition and advancement. We all possess this deadly potential. To choose to manifest this sin pushes God's presence and power out of our life and opens the door to the enemy. (6)

2. The promise: *God ... gives grace to the humble.*

God responds to our decision to trust Him and not ourselves. The implication is that we do this in surrendering to Him, being aggressive in obeying Him, and trusting Him to enable us, guide us, and protect us. (7)

- B. The exhortations: (Note – all these exhortations are decisions – evidence of trusting God.)

1. *Clothe yourself with humility toward one another*
2. *Humble yourself, therefore, under God's mighty hand*
3. *Cast all your anxiety on him,*

- C. The concluding promise: *because he cares for you*

Victor Matthews