

Too Many Indians, Not Enough Chiefs

1 Peter 5

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

1 Peter 5:2

Four Responsibilities of a Leader

1. The Shepherd Leads

The Principle of Influence

“A man's message will always be heard in context with his character. You can't separate the two.”

—William Barclay, commentator

2. The Shepherd Feeds

Four Responsibilities of a Leader

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4

Leaders have the responsibility to feed people the Bible.

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.

Hebrews 6:1-3

3. The Shepherd Protects

Four Responsibilities of a Leader

*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***

*I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. **Acts 20:29-30***

Three Types of Spiritual “Wolves”

1. False teachers—undermine faith of people
2. Contentious talkers—undercut fellowship
3. Immoral backsliders—destroy integrity

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. 1 Corinthians 5:1

And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? 1 Corinthians 5:2

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? 1 Corinthians 5:6

4. The Shepherd Loves

Four Responsibilities of a Leader

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. John 10:11-12

So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

John 10:12-13

“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

John 10:1

*The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **John 10:2-3***

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact,

they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." **John 10:4-5**

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **1 Peter 5:2-3**

The Motivation and Reasons for Leadership

1. Lead out of an inner desire, not from an external persuasion.

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

1 Timothy 3:1

2. Lead out of a desire to serve people, not for selfish profit or greed.

3. Lead people by example, not a lust for power.

not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **1 Peter 5:3**

Temptations to which Leadership is Vulnerable

- Sloth—laziness
- Sex—immorality
- Silver—greed
- Self—ego

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **1 Timothy 3:6**

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud

but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Peter 5:5

4. The Reward of Leadership

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Peter 5:4

Double honor, double responsibility.

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17

For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

1 Timothy 5:18

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning. 1 Timothy 5:19-20