

The Attitude of a Healthy Church

1 Peter 5:1-5

Context - As Peter closes out his final chapter, he gives instruction on the behaviors that should exemplify Christians within the church.

Main idea - God seeks the humble cooperation of a church's pastor and its members.

A healthy church will...

1. [Shepherd's] _____ well the Flock of God (vs. 1-4)

A shepherd will avoid the following sins when serving a church:

Grief - A pastor should not accept a church out of obligation or under compulsion. A pastor should accept service to a church out of a calling of joy.

Greed - A pastor should not take a church primarily for the paycheck, or to continually move up the ladder between churches for financial gain. An eager, positive desire of fulfilling God's will and calling should be the primary motivator of a pastor.

Glory - Pastors should avoid a posture of lording over a church in a power trip or as a means of sinful pride. The Greek emphasis means to rule with force with an excessive use of authority. Rather, living as a humble example to the church is the mark of a good pastor.

2. [Flock] _____ itself to the Elders (vs. 5a)

Explanation - *Be subject* indicates a general willingness to support the elders' directions except if they should ever direct one to sin.

3. [All] _____ with Humility (vs. 5b)

Explanation - "Clothe" is a unique word that referred to an apron which a servant would put on before doing his tasks. No doubt Peter was recalling Jesus taking the towel and girding Himself as He washed the disciples' feet. Humility is being aware of our own insufficiency, but trusting in Christ's all-sufficiency.