

SAVED TO SERVE

I Peter 5:1-5

In this chapter of Peter the believers are encouraged to have faith through the trials and difficulties of this life. Peter emphasizes the responsibilities of every child of God and to serve the Lord diligently.

PASTOR RESPONSIBILITY

I Peter 5:1 The pastor, or 'elder' is exhorted to “feed the flock of God.” take special note that the 'flock' that Peter talks about is the believers within the church and they belong to God.

“**Feed**” – The actual meaning of this word from the Greek means (to tend as a shepherd, to feed, to rule, to guard, to protect).

Acts 20:28 The pastor is to lead and take responsibility over the assembly of believers. God calls the man to the position of pastor and gives him the responsibility and holds him accountable for them.

I Peter 5:2; I Timothy 5:17 Peter teaches us that the pastor should not serve because of the want of money but because God called him to serve, however, Paul teaches that if the pastor serves well and is Biblical, he should be respected and paid well for serving and honoring his commitment to his calling.

I Peter 5:2 Peter gives the warning to the elders or pastors not to become “lords over God's heritage..”. “**To lord over**” - this has the meaning of (to lord against, to control, to be domineering over weaker people, to overcome).

II Timothy 2:4:2; Eph. 4:11-15 The main responsibility of the pastor is to teach and preach God's word in good times and bad times. His preaching and teaching must be to grow the people spiritually.

II Corinthians 11:2; Col. 1:28 The pastors heart felt desire should be to warn believers about the world, the flesh and the Devil. His main goal is to present the church pure as possible to Jesus Christ.

BELIEVERS RESPONSIBILITY

I Peter 5:5 The Holy Spirit now has Peter turn his attention to the church members. The first thing he tells us to do is to submit to the elders, or the pastor. Good leaders deserve good and loyal followers.

I Peter 5:5 The word “**Younger**” - this refers to someone “newer in the Lord”. The “younger” believers are to submit to those more mature in the Lord especially the pastor who is called by God.

Hebrews 13:17 “**Submit**” - The bible definition of this word does not refer to the world's definition. The world tells us that to “submit” is to be inferior to someone else. We submit to those who are Godly.

Romans 2:11 No where in the bible is the believer shown as being inferior to anyone. Wherever the bible talks of “submission” it is always refers to God. No one in God's sight is better than anyone else.

I Corinthians 12:18-22 Each believer in the church has a job to do that fulfills the body. The pastor, deacon, trustee, teacher or church officer is no greater than the nursery worker or the janitor.

I Peter 5:5 “**Be clothed with humility**” - The meaning of this is a hearts attitude, (meekness, an absence of self, or lowliness of mind). It is an attitude of selflessness. God resists the proud.

James 4:6 The word “**Resisteth**” - this word means to oppose and tells us that God has set Himself against the proud and arrogant, those who seek recognition, but gives grace, (His favor), to the humble.

Hebrews 10:25 It is the responsibility of every member to be in church services whenever possible.

Colossians 3:5 It is the command of God to have hearts that are at peace with each other in church.

Galatians 6:1 It is the responsibility of members to be watchful for each other and restore if needed.

I Corinthians 10:6, 11 Regarding supporting the church with our finances the O. T. is our guide.

I Corinthians 16:1-2 Every church member should participate in missions giving as Paul taught us.

Galatians 6:10 The world, the flesh and the Devil hates the church. The world is not interested in helping believers with anything. God teaches us to look for opportunities to be a blessing for others.