

PP Together!**Part 8-1 Peter 5:5 (page in the pew Bible)****3/2-3/2019**

Have you ever tried to explain something to someone but couldn't find the right words?

PP Show Video of little boy (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06ecQHtOWTM>)

It is a frustrating experience for both the one speaking as well as the one listening

I sometimes feel this way when preaching topically rather than expositionally

Starting a sermon in the middle of a biblical book is like being blindfolded, put on a helicopter and dropped off in the middle of the Adirondacks with a compass and survival bag

Adirondacks is 6 million acres big, the size of Vermont, 3 times the size of Yellowstone Park

If you are lost, I would want to be able to have a GPS app that could zoom out and give me a picture of the whole park so I could know where I was and where I needed to go

So let me tell you where we have been dropped off in the Park system of 1 Peter

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5

Yet, to really navigate our way through this verse to the help it offers us, we need to zoom out to the whole book for a few minutes

So let's look at an aerial view of **1 Peter**, so look at it with me starting with its first verse

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” 1 Peter 1:1

These cities make up modern day Turkey, and the ruler on the Roman throne is Nero

The Roman Empire was tolerant, liberal in its dealings with its many different provinces, allowing the conquered peoples to maintain their religion and culture

But they viewed Christians and Jews as pagans because neither group would worship the image of the Caesar as divine

They wouldn't bow before an image of Caesar, sprinkle incense into a fire, saying 'Lord Caesar'

Christians willingly gave up their lives only worshiping Christ and Rome hated them

Rome charged Christians of being cannibals, killing and eating their children at their love feasts

They accused Christians of diving family, Roman women often getting saved, husbands not (3:1)

Peter write this letter around AD 64, and on July 18th that year, a massive fire raged in the city of Rome, devouring the slums in Rome, destroying 10 of the city's 14 districts

It was rumored that Nero started the fire, wanting the slums gone so new palaces could be built

Nero managed to blame the hated Christians for this, even though their district was consumed

He rounded up Christians, put them on poles and burned them at night to light his garden parties

He had them sewn alive inside animal skins and devoured by wild beasts, and others crucified

Persecution ramping up, God moved Peter to write a letter preparing these churches for suffering

In **chapter 2**, he tells them to silence those false rumors against Christians by doing good-**15**

To endure suffering by Christ's example-**21**

In **chapter 3**, Peter, who cut off an ear of one of the soldiers who arrested Christ, instructed the church to not repay evil for evil, but to bless-**9**

That God is against those who do evil and for those who do good-**12, 13**

That it is better to suffer for doing good, rather than evil-**17**

In **chapter 4**, He urged them Christ suffered as well and that suffering can help us overcome sin-**1**

He reminded them that we are already living in the last stage of the plan of God before Christ

Returns-7, that we should not be caught by surprise at these fiery trials-12
 And finally, the verse that is directly connected to 5:1 is 4:19, ***“Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”***
 There are many forms of suffering, but Peter is talking about suffering because one is a Christian
 Jesus warned, **PP** ***“you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”*** Matthew 10:22

Professors penalizing students who write a paper defending Judeo-Christian principles
 Losing a job because a Christians is being a living witness of Christ at the workplace
 That breakup because you won’t have sex before marriage
 In some countries, like in Peter’s day, the threat of martyrdom because you love Jesus
 And for the church to endure persecution well, the Elders need to be leading well

PP 1-Elders, do your job, the suffering church needs you!

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock” 5:1-3

Elders are the spiritual leaders of a local church, and there is never just one of them in the church
 No one person is to be vested with spiritual authority in the church, but instead a group of Elders
 And they are to shepherd the church, feed, protect, and care for the people in the church
 Those suffering persecution should experience the help, comfort and guidance of the Elders
 They exercise oversight, govern willingly, not domineering, but as good examples to the church
 Peter is warning, terrible persecution is coming, so Elders, get your A game on, by God’s grace
 Yet Elders are not the final authority in a church, God is: ***‘as God would have you’***
 The Chief Shepherd is coming, you are accountable to Him, so be humble
 We can see humility, starting in **verse 1** as Peter calls himself a ***‘fellow elder’***
 He could’ve said he was an ***‘Apostle’***...after all, he was ***‘a witness of the sufferings of Christ’***
 But that had to cost him something to write that, don’t you think?
 He had rejected Christ in His suffering, having run away and abandoning Him, and at most stood
 at a distance watching Him get crucified
 Can you sense the humility in Peter writing this some 30 years after that terrible event?
 I’m one of you, Elders, and we must shepherd our people well, persecution is coming!
 But it takes two to tango, they say, so Peter moves to a specific demographic in the churches

PP 2-Young people, put yourself in place, so the Elders can help you!

“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.” 1 Peter 5:5a

Peter just instructed Elders to submit to the Chief Shepherd, leading as God would have them not
 Now he turns to group in the church who need to act in a similar way, this time with the Elders
‘Likewise’, young people, put yourself willingly beneath the Elders authority
 Peter has used this word ***‘subject’*** several times

PP *“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by Him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.” 1 Peter 2:13-14*

A few verses later, **PP** *“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.” 1 Peter 2:18*

PP ‘*subject*’ was a military command for the troops to get back in formation

If a soldier was out of file, standing ahead of the others, this word was shouted by a commander to move him to get back in line

Why does Peter address this specifically to younger people?

It is a common struggle with every generation to submit to authority

Interestingly, the young generation today has more knowledge available to them than the older adults in their lives, and in fact when it comes to knowledge, parents are obsolete, the Internet is their source

We often see kids go to college, and suddenly they have more knowledge than their parents

The word **PP** Sophomore originally meant *wise fool*

I still shudder remembering my sophomore summer after I had taken some psychology classes and I sat my parents down and told them what was wrong with them...wise fool

Younger people today have more knowledge, but they do not necessarily have the life experience or wisdom to organize and apply that knowledge

One expert said *Millennials don’t disrespect authority, they disrespect authoritarianism*

That is generally true, and unfortunately, their often-asked ‘*Why*’ is perceived as anti-authority ‘*Why do we need to do things the way they been done?*’

So to be told by Peter to ‘*be subject to the elders*’, they’re often thinking, I’d be glad to if you can show me why, give me the reasons, not just the demand

And Peter will gladly do so, but not until addressing the heart of everyone in the church

PP 3-All of us, dress up and lie low!

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” 5:5b

Peter is preparing the churches for persecution and tells Elders to lead well, the church needs you

Young people, yield to them, they are God’s means for your protection and care

But here’s the answer to ‘*Why*’...God will become your enemy if you will not humble yourself!

Peter isn’t talking to just younger people, nor Elders, but to the whole church: ‘*all of you*’

And he tells all Christians to clothe themselves with humility toward one another

PP The phrase ‘*clothe yourself*’ was a word for a slave tying on an apron

We are all to tie on ‘*humility*’, a word found in early secular documents describing the Nile River in its low stage

PP ‘*humility*’ means ‘*not rising far from the ground...to be low*’

The Greco-Roman world despised humility, relating it to shy people who lacked self-confidence

They viewed humility as appropriate for a slave, inappropriate for the free person

But God opposes the proud, and that is good news, because not one person can be saved until they recognize their great need for salvation

God brings a person low before He lifts a person up, to spiritual poverty before riches

While we get that about salvation, the humble person never truly rises up within himself, he stays

low to the ground like the Nile River, with humility tied on around his soul

PP “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Matthew 23:12

Humility is something that the Christian can choose, because God has set that person free from the dominating power of self-absorbing sin

I will say it again, Christian, you can choose humility because of the work of Christ on the cross for you, and you must

Yet it'll be a daily battle for as **PP** Martin Luther said, We are ‘*deeply curved in on [ourselves]*’ We need each other to be humble

You know, every once in a while, my wife will like my sermon, and usually on those rare Sundays that she does, my kids will come along and help further my humility

Suffering helps us be humble

Do you remember that the Apostle Paul was given **PP** “*a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*”

2 Corinthians 12:7

You are a prideful person...and I am too

And that pride must be diminished in you as well as in me, and God will show it you through other people, through suffering, through His Word, by His Spirit

And when He does, He is saying: *Make the choice, will you put on humility, will you lie low to the ground, will you turn your eyes off yourself and put them on others?*

Are you angry at someone, and you're thinking of revenge...put on humility

Are you experiencing success and your heart is craving more...put on humility

Are you worrying about the shape of your body and comparing it to others...put on humility

Are you fighting with God about doing something He has clearly asked of you...put on humility

Have you been wronged and you're holding unforgiveness over someone...put on humility

C.S. Lewis wrote it well in **PP** Mere Christianity, ‘*True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.*’

I will close by reading to you what I believe is the bible's clearest glimpse of humility

PP “*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” **Philippians 2:3-11**

Elders, lead the church well, young people, yield, all of us be humble with each other