

In Christ: HUMBLE SHEPHERDS

1 Peter 5:1-14

Study beginning 29 March 2009

Discuss (5 minutes as a group)

How do most people view humility? Why might it be humble to confidently acknowledge the gifts and abilities that God has given us?

Read, Reflect and Apply

Read 5v1-4

1. Who does Peter address in these verses? What three things does he say about himself? Which of those things is probably unique to Peter? What is so very important about that one?

2. What role does Peter call these Christian leaders to? What are they to be? What are they not to be? What will the Chief Shepherd bring? What does that mean? Cf Rev 2v10.

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Read John 21v15-25

3. Jesus speaks to Peter three times. If he loves Jesus—what will he do for Jesus' sheep? How might a shepherd feed and care for sheep? How does Peter's restoration and commissioning by the Lord Jesus affect his view of Christian leadership? How should this thinking affect our view of Christian leadership within our church family? How does it affect small groups? What about other church leaders? What do we do well? What could we do better?

Read 5v5-11

The focus shifts from elders to young Christian men. It is hard to work out whether his word to them finishes at verse 5 or verse 11.

4. We've seen before that submission is something given not something taken. How does submission and humility go together in verses 5 & 6? How are the young Christian leaders to respond to their elders? (What does Peter presume the disposition of the elders will be to the young men (v1-4))?

5. In what ways do people try to make names for themselves. Why don't we need to worry about making a name for ourselves v6-7? How are these verses a practical call for us? Share with the group some of your anxieties at present. What will you do to "cast all your anxiety on Him"?

6. The devil has been defeated at the cross of the Lord Jesus. John 12:31-33. In what ways does Peter say that he is still a problem for believers? What positive things can believers do in the light of the knowledge that the devil is real v8-9?

7. Suffering has been a big deal right through 1 Peter. What do v9 & 10 teach us about suffering? How does this encourage you in what you are suffering as a believer at present? What has God called us to? What will God do for us?

Read 5v12-14

8. Two names—Silas and Mark come together in these final greetings. Read Acts 15:36-41. How does Peter describe them both in 1Peter5? What is Silas's role with Peter? What is Mark's? (It is thought that Mark's gospel may effectively be Peter's—it maybe that Mark wrote down Peter's eyewitness account.) Babylon is probably code for Rome. What is "she" and what is her status?

9. Write down three things that Christ has changed in your thinking or behaviour as a result of what you have learnt in 1 Peter over the last ten weeks.

Pray

- For true humility. That we might rejoice in and acknowledge who God is making us in Christ. That we would give Him the glory.
- Pray for our elders and leaders that they might be true shepherds to the flock of God.
- Pray for one another especially that we might cast your cares on the Lord Jesus Himself.
- Pray for resistance and endurance in the face of the work of the devil.
- Thank God—that He will restore us after our times of suffering.
- Pray for our Easter services—that as people come to church out of our wider community that they will hear and respond to the saving message of the cross and Christ's resurrection. Pray that we will proclaim Him clearly.

