

1 Peter 5:1-4 and Selected Scriptures
The In's and Outs of Biblical Soul Care
(pt. 2)

INTRO: Labor pains and Christian ministry (Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:28-29)

Outline of 1 Peter 5:1-4 (REVIEW)

I) The Empathetic Shepherding Mandate.

(1 Peter 5:1-3)

II) The Eternally Glorious Prize.

(1 Peter 5:4)

The In's and Out's Biblical Soul Care

1) **Biblical Shepherding is a** _____.

2) **Biblical Shepherding is a** _____.

3) **Biblical Shepherding is** _____.

4) **Biblical Shepherding is a** _____.

The In's and Out's Biblical Soul Care (continued)

5) **Biblical Shepherding is a** _____.

(Acts 20:35; 2 Tim. 2:15; 4:6; 2 Cor. 12:15, 24-29)

6) **Biblical Shepherding embraces** _____.

(Phil. 2:1-10; Luke 22:24-30; John 13:14f)

7) **Biblical Shepherding comes** _____.

(Heb. 13:17; Titus 2:15; 1 Thess. 2:13, 5:12-13)

For Further Reflection/Application: *We must be doers of God's Word and not merely hearers*

When's the last time you experienced *excruciating* pain? Have you ever talked with someone who experienced "labor-esq" pains while trying to pass kidney stones?

Why do you suppose that Paul likens *Christian ministry* to child "birth pangs?"
Shepherding, like sanctification, requires blood, sweat, and tears- Read Galatians 4:19; Col. 1:28-29; and Philippians 2:12-13.

Talk about some of the unique challenges, burdens, and setbacks related to biblical shepherding/biblical soul care. I once asked a lay leader in Illinois why we had no problem finding willing deacons- but why it was so difficult to find willing elders. He said, "Walls don't talk back or offer up stiff resistance. Sheep can bite, kick, and spit-and sometimes do."

Timothy Lane has written a Christian book with a clever title, "Relationships: A Mess Worthy Making." Are you willing to invest in others, to get your hands dirty, to bear someone else's burdens, to be your brother's keeper, etc.? The N.T. one another's expect us too.

Which of the first four components of biblical shepherding (from 1 Peter 5) was most helpful for you to be reminded of? Explain why. 1) *Biblical Shepherding is a non-negotiable priority.* 2) *Biblical shepherding is a sacred stewardship?* 3) *Biblical Shepherding is directly related to the local church.* 4) *Biblical Shepherding is a team effort.*

List some of the ways that biblical soul care and/or shepherding can be such a "blessing" (to the discipler and to the disciplee)? How can soul care be a "burden?" (note 2 Cor. 12:24-29, esp. verses 28-29).

How can church members help lessen some of the ministry burden(s) of their church pastors/elders? How can deacons help do this? Note Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Exodus 18.

Why is "servant-leadership" particularly honoring to the Lord? Whether you're a leader or not, how does a believer learn to die to self and become increasingly others-orientated? Note Phil. 2:1-10.

Biblical shepherding comes with delegated authority. Hence Titus 2:15; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17. Americans however have become increasingly anti-authority (at work, school, the ball park, with police officers, etc). How do Christians fight against developing this worldly mindset? Think back to message one- Governing authority/sword (Romans 13); parental authority/the rod (Eph. 6, the Proverbs); church authority (elders/pastors-the Word of God and church discipline- Mt. 18:15-17).

Talk about the implications of the following two quotes- Within a Spirit-filled church- there's a mutual submission to the Lordship of Christ (Col. 1-4); there's a shared submission to the Word of Christ (1 Thess. 2:13) and there's a willing submission of the flock to the under-shepherds of Christ (Heb. 13:17).

"Elders are responsible for the leadership of others, under the Headship of Christ, within the parameters of God's Holy Word!" Alistair Begg sums it up quite well.

By way of review: As a spiritual sheep, are you embracing the Good Shepherd's plan for your life in terms of 1) the primacy of the local church and 2) the essential need of shepherding/biblical soul care)? What does someone's church life look like when these biblical convictions take hold of their heart?

The Word of God also teaches that believers (sheep) need faithful shepherds who willingly over them (hence 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Acts 20:26-28). List 2-3 things that you can do to more faithfully embrace the Good Shepherd's plan for your life and His church in the year to come?

Related Scripture Passages: Search the Scriptures to see if this be so.

1 Peter 5:1-5; Gal. 4:19; Col. 1:28-29; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Cor. 12:24-29; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17; John 13:14f.

Recommended Resources: *"Visit many good books but, live in the Bible;" Charles Spurgeon.*

The Shepherd-Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church- by Timothy Witmer

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making- by Timothy S. Lane

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change, Helping People in Need of Change- by Paul David Tripp

The Reformed Pastor- by Puritan Richard Baxter

Loving the Church: God's People Flourishing in God's Family- John Crotts

The Master's Plan for the Church- John MacArthur

9 Marks of a Healthy Church- Mark Dever

The Church in God's Program- Robert Saucy

Related Praise Songs: *Theology fuels Doxology! We dig deeply in order that we may go high!*

Rise Up O Men of God- Hymn

I Love Thy Church O God- Hymn

O Church of Christ, Invincible- Matt Boswell

Soldiers of Christ, Arise- Hymn

O Church Arise- the Getty

The King of Love My Shepherd Is- Fernando Ortega

The Good Shepherd- Fernando Ortega

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