

1 Peter 5:1-4

“Lead (by Example), Follow, or Get Out of the Way!”

INTRO: “I’m not a role model; parents should be role-models.” Charles Barkley

Outline of 1 Peter 5:2-3 (REVIEW); Elders/Pastors, must shepherd “God’s flock”:

1) *NOT because they have to but because they want to (fulfill God’s will).*

(1 Peter 5:2a; 1 Tim. 3:1a-2; Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 9:7)

2) *NOT because we hope to gain something ‘good’ for ourselves,
but because we long to give of ourselves for the ‘good’ of the church.*

(1 Peter 5:2b; 1 Tim. 3:3; 2 Cor. 2:17)

3) **NOT** _____.

(1 Peter 5:3; Mark 10:35-45; John 13:12-17; Philippians 2:1-8)

A faithful Christian role-model, first of all:

I) _____.
(1 Tim. 4:14-16)

II) _____.
(Psalm 32, 51; Luke 17:3-4; James 5:16a; Col. 3:12-14)

III) _____.
(1 Peter 4:12-13; 2 Tim. 1:8, 2:3, 3:12)

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

What did you initially think of Charles Barkley's quote, "I'm not a role-model. Parents should be role-models!?" Early in his sports career "Sir Charles" was known as being a "bad-boy" super-star.

Think about all the roles in your life where you should be a role-model? Examples include you're an upperclassman in the youth group, a boss/supervisor at work, an elder/deacon, a youth leader, a SS teacher, an aunt or uncle, a senior saint (Titus 2), etc, etc. People are watching you whether you know it or not. Ask God to help you be more conscientious of this that you might lead by example.

If God puts you in *any* position of influence- you have a moral obligation to set a good example! Many New Testament passages underscore this timeless truth. Note 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17, 4:9; 1 Timothy 4:12f; 1 Peter 5:3.

Elders and pastors must shepherd God's flock 3) Not as domineering dictators but as exemplary role-models (examples). 1 Peter 5:3 (note the verses listed above and the Christian books listed below).

Do you agree with this statement? A money loving, power hungry, win at all cost's leader might be the norm on Wallstreet or in WA D.C. but has absolutely no place in Christian ministry!

With proper discretion and without mentioning any names, talk about someone whose leadership was not exemplary. A teacher, boss, etc. who was unduly (and needlessly) harsh. How did this negatively impact this individual's ability to lead and influence those around them?

Does the Master's mindset increasingly govern my Christian walk? Note Philippians 2:1-8 and/or Mark 10:34-45; John 13:12-17. We long to be increasingly Christ-like. How have you grown in this regard?

Thankfully, God does not require perfection (in terms of leadership qualifications); if He did, no sinner, saved by grace, would be qualified to serve as an elder/deacon (or as a leader in the home, workplace, etc). Having said that, God does expect us to grow (read 1 Timothy 4:15) and to work hard at maturing in the faith (read Philippians 2:12b-13). In what ways have you really grown spiritually over the past few years (you might ask your spouse, sibling, best-friend to help you answer this question).

All disciples of Christ are called to crucify selfish ambition and to be servant-minded; but it's especially crucial for those serving in leadership roles. No menial task is beneath a "bondslave of Christ."

A faithful Christian role model is first of all, I) Sound in their doctrine and is circumspect in their faith (1 Timothy 4:14-16; Eph 5:15-20. Note the recent tragic real-life examples of (former) church leaders Joshua Harris, Mark Driscoll, Bill Hybels, Clayton Jennings, James MacDonald, Jason Webb. Let us all take heed lest we fall. 1 Cor. 10:12.

A Faithful Christian role-model (leader) is II) an exemplary confessor. Luke 17:3; Psalm 32, 51; James 5:16. The 12 most important words in marriage: "I was wrong. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I love you."

A faithful role model (leader) 3) Perseveres under persecution. The context of 1 Peter 5:3 is everything Peter writes about in chapters 1-4. It's obvious that the early church was under heavy fire.

What are some of the ways that American Christians are being singled out, marginalized, and/or vilified today by both the worldly world and the compromised church? How is the LGBTQ movement leading the way in many of these efforts? Are we prepared and willing to stand firm in the faith! (1 Pet. 4:12-13).

Make this your prayer this week/year: “*Sheep are like a mirror, what they see and hear they often do. May we provide a Christlike reflection for them to follow.*”

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

1 Peter 5:1-5; Mark 10:35-35; Luke 17:3-4; 1 Corinthians 10:12; 11:1; Philippians 2:1-8; 3:17, 4:9; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Timothy 4:12-16

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

Slave: the Hidden Truth About Your Identity in Christ- John MacArthur
Called to Lead: 26 Leadership Lessons from the Life of the Apostle Paul- John MacArthur
The Conviction to Lead: 25 Principles for Leadership that Matters- Albert Mohler
Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence For Every Believer- J. Oswald Sanders
The Shepherd-Leader- Timothy Z. Witmer
Loving the Church: God’s People Flourishing in God’s Family- John Crotts
Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church- Donald S. Whitney
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!*

A Christian’s Daily Prayer- Prayers of the Saints Live
Amazing Love- Chris Tomlin
Make Me a Servant- The Marantha! Singers
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
Rise Up O Men of God- Hymn

All related sermons can be downloaded for free on our website at www.lakecountrybible.org

CDs are available *immediately* following the service in the foyer thanks to some wonderful volunteers.