



Over the past few weeks, we have looked at how to respond to those in authority in various capacities. This week, we look at what God expects of those in leadership within the church, as well as gain further instruction on how to best function in our daily lives so that we stand firm in our faith and remain close to God.

Read: 1 Peter 5:1-4

What characteristics are important in those who shepherd and oversee the flock?

Read: 1 Peter 5:5-7

We are told to 'clothe ourselves' with humility. What can we learn from this phrase, as far as choice and frequency? Why is it important to do this?

Look up the dictionary definition of 'oppose.' What do we learn about the gravity of God's response to pride?

Pay attention to the word 'cast.' What does it indicate about how God wants us to handle our bringing of anxiety to Him?

Is there a way that anxiety can be related to pride?

Read: 1 Peter 5:8-11; Ephesians 6:10-18

The devil is constantly on the prowl, seeking those he can devour. He doesn't want to just poke at people...he wants to consume them. However, Christians have been given tools to both recognize and fight against these attacks. We are not defenseless.

What two things are we tasked with in order to be on our guard (5:8)?

In order to resist, we are to stand firm in the faith. What does that mean?

Apply it:

In what area of your life might God be calling you to model a biblical example of leadership?

Are there any anxieties you are holding onto that you need to cast onto God?

How can your Christian brothers and sisters support you as you stand firm in the faith?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for being our Good Shepherd. Thank you for caring for us, for protecting us, and for leading us in the ways of righteousness. Thank you for calling older shepherds in the church to partner with you in that process. We pray for our elders now, that you would guide them and keep them close to you. Lord, keep us all humble, and help us to stand firm in you until we walk with you in your eternal glory. Amen.