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Shepherding the Flock & Clothing Ourselves with Humility

1. Peter’s Apostolic Exhortation

- to the elders as a fellow elder
- as a witness of Christ’s sufferings
- as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed

2. Shepherd the flock of God

- exercising oversight
- not under compulsion, but willingly
- not for shameful gain, but eagerly
- not domineering, but as examples
- receiving the unfading crown of glory when the chief Shepherd appears

3. The Call to Humility for Us All

- clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another

- for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”

Leadership & Shepherding Language Used in the New Testament

The words elder, overseer, shepherd, flock & sheep are often used in connection with one another, & sometimes even interchangeably (e.g., elders/overseers in Ac 20:17,28; 1Ti 3:1-2; 5:17). Here are some examples of how these words are used by NT authors (color coded for easy reference). Scripture taken from the ESV © 2001.

Shepherd(s) (*poimēn*) – John 10:11; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 2:25

Chief Shepherd (*archipoimēn*) – 1 Peter 5:4

Shepherd [verb] (*poimainō*) – John 21:16 [tend]; Acts 2:28 [to care for]; 1 Peter 5:2

Flock (*poimnion*) – Acts 2:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3

Sheep (*probaton*) – John 10:11; 21:16-17; 1 Peter 2:25

Elders (*presbyteros*) – Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 5:17,19; 1 Peter 5:1

A fellow elder (*synpresbyteros*) – 1 Peter 5:1

Oversight (*episkopeō*) – 1 Peter 5:2

Overseer (*episkopos*) – Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:2

Office of Overseer (*episkopē*) – 1 Timothy 3:1

John 10:11 ¹¹ I am the good **shepherd**. The good **shepherd** lays down his life for the **sheep**. **John 21:16b** He said to him, “**Tend** [shepherd] my **sheep**.” [see also v17]

Acts 20:17-18, 28 ¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them ... ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the **flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, **to care for** [shepherd] the church of God,^[e] which he obtained with his own blood.^[f]

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds** [^c or pastors] and teachers [^d or the shepherd-teachers], ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

1 Peter 2:25 ²⁵ For you were straying like **sheep**, but have now returned to the **Shepherd** and **Overseer** of your souls.

1 Peter 5:1-4 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: ² **shepherd** the **flock** of God that is among you, exercising **oversight**,^[a] ... being examples to the **flock**. ⁴ And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Timothy 3:1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the **office of overseer**, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an **overseer**^[a] must be above reproach...

1 Timothy 5:17 ¹⁷ Let the **elders** who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. [see also v19]