

Disciples

Making Disciples

1 Peter 5:1-5

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: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

With that being said, I urge all of you leaders (and I say this as a leader myself, someone who witnessed Jesus' suffering) and as someone who will soon share with you in divine praise and honor. Look after the people you lead. Guide them. Protect them. Care for them. Do all of these things not because you have to, but because you want to. God wants you to lead in this way. Be a leader not for what you can get, but for what you can give. Be excited to lead! Do not ever lead by force but lead by example. When Jesus comes back he will praise you for leading like this. Now for those of you being led: Be ready to be led. All of you, remember that your command is to love each other and that the love of God starts with humility. Humility is the willingness to deny self and there is no greater love than the love Jesus showed by laying down his life for you. You have a choice: focus more on loving yourself and have God be against you, or deny yourself and love others and have God be for you.

Notes: