Shepherds and Sheep PART I (1 Peter 5:1-7)

Shepherd the Flock

"The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: **Shepherd the flock of God** which is among you, serving as overseers, **not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly**; **nor as being lords** over those entrusted to you, but **being examples** to the flock; and when the **Chief Shepherd appears**, you will receive **the crown of glory** that does not fade away." I Peter 5:1-4 NKJV

I Peter 5:1-4

- "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;" I Peter 5:2-3 NKJV
 - **Shepherd the flock of God**

Context from Y'shua's instructions to Peter: "So when V they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me** more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."" John 21:15-19 NKJV

- - Feed the babies, guide them as adults, and continue to feed them as adults!

Bad Shepherds: ""Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD." Jeremiah 23:1-2 NKJV

A willing heart: "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world," Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV

☑ Dishonesty vs. Eagerness

Always for others: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV

✓ Lording Over vs. Being a good Example

Serving equals greatness: "But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them,

and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."" Mark 10:42-45 NKJV

- "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." I Corinthians11:1 NKJV
- **✓** A servant leadership position—a witness to outsiders:
 - "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." I Timothy 3:7 NKJV
 - "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:5-6 NKJV
- "and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive **the crown of glory** that does not fade away." I Peter 5:4 NKJV
 - **<u>Ine crown of glory</u>**
 - ☑ The Crown of Life: "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will

- **receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12 NKJV
- The Imperishable Crown: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." I Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV
- Rewards—But let each one take heed how he builds:

 "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field,
 you are God's building. According to the grace of God
 which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have
 laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let
 each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other
 foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which
 is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation
 with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each
 one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it,
 because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test

each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." I Corinthians 3:9-15 NKJV

Submit to God; Resist the Devil

"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." I Peter 5:5-7 NKJV

I Peter 5:5-7

- "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time," I Peter 5:5-6 NKJV
 - **Submitting to Elders**

- Obey those over you: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17 NKJV
- Subjection to "Godly" rulers and authorities—a good witness: "Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another." Titus 3:1-3 NKIV

Submitting to one another Submitting to one another

Submitting to one another in the fear of God: "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God." Ephesians 5:17-21 NKJV

- **☑** Calling Believers into submission:
 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ: "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load."

 Galatians 6:1-5 NKJV
 - **☑** To love your neighbor, you cannot tolerate his sin!
 - When Y'shua was asked about the greatest commandment... "Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

- This is the first commandment. *And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no other commandment greater than these."" Mark 12:28-31 NKJV
- by and watching him sin WITHOUT REBUKING
 HIM. If you do you do not love him; you HATE
 him. "'You shall not hate your brother in your
 heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and
 not bear sin because of him. You shall not take
 vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the
 children of your people, but you shall love your
 neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD." Leviticus
 19:17-18 NKIV
- Who is there even among you who would shut the doors? ""A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.'

And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

"Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands." Malachi 1:6-10 NKJV

- ☑ Stolen Offerings! "You also say, 'Oh, what a
 weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of
 hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the
 sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this
 from your hand?" Says the LORD." Malachi 1:13
 NKJV
- How do you go about correcting your brother and giving him a chance to submit?
 - One-on-one; Bring others; Tell the church:"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and

tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." Matthew 18:15-17 NKJV

- "Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear." I Timothy 5:20 NKJV
- "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that." I John 5:16 NKJV
- ✓ Note: See The Sin that Leads to Death
- How should they respond:
 - Listen and don't talk! "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." James 1:19-20 NKJV

- "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him." Proverbs 18:13 NKJV
- ☑ The Joy over repentance:
 - Whose job is it anyway? "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20 NKJV
 - Rejoice over the one! ""What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And

when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."" Luke 15:4-10 NKJV

Humility

- "When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom." Proverbs 11:2 NKJV
- "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before **honor is humility**." Proverbs 15:33 NKJV
- "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility." Proverbs 18:12 NKJV
- "By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life." Proverbs 22:4 NKJV
- "The humble He **guides in justice**, And the humble He teaches His way." Psalms 25:9 NKJV
- "For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify [crown] the humble with salvation." Psalms 149:4 NKJV
- **"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."**
 - ☑ Abomination! "For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with

the upright. The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. [34] Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools." Proverbs 3:32-35 NKJV

- Abomination! "These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren." Proverbs 6:16-19 NKJV
- James Context: "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."" James 4:4-6 NKJV
- **✓** Humble yourself and He will exalt you!
 - He will life you up! "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and

- He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:7-10 NKJV
- Save it or lose it! "When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" Mark 8:34-36 NKJV
- Y'shua Humbled Himself! "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has

highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name," Philippians 2:5-9 NKJV

- "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." I Peter
 5:7 NKJV

 - Be anxious for nothing: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV
 - **Do not Worry!** ""Therefore I say to you, **do not worry** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed

like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:25-34 NKJV

NEXT WEEK

Shepherds and Sheep PART II (1 Peter 5:8-14)