

# Heart of a Leader

## I PETER 5:1-4

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.



What is the relationship between elders, the flock, and the Chief shepherd?

What are the characteristics of a faithful elder according to Peter? What does Peter contrast those characteristics with?

How do Peter's experiences and perspectives influence his paradigm for Christian leadership?

# Heart of a Leader

**WHAT INFERENCES CAN YOU DRAW FROM THIS PASSAGE ABOUT PETER’S UNDERSTANDING OF LEADERSHIP?**

● “Not because you must but because you are willing...”

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ AS YOU LEAD.**

● “Not greedy for money, but eager to serve...”

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF WHY YOU LEAD.**

● “Not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT THE \_\_\_\_\_ IN WHICH YOU LEAD.**

	CHARACTERISTIC	AFFECT OF THE LEADER	EFFECT ON THE FLOCK
ATTITUDE		Only wanting to do the minimum required, complaining, inflexible, sees leadership role as a burden and ultimately the flock as a burden	
		Love being with the flock, eagerness to go above and beyond, sees leadership role as a blessing.	
MOTIVATION		Egocentric, manipulative, deceitful, focused on what they can get out of the leadership role, unwilling to sacrifice or pay costs for the sake of the flock	
		Puts the needs of the flock before their own, willing to pay costs for the well being of the flock, trusts Chief Shepherd to meet their needs.	
MANNER		Uses authority to promote their agenda, emphasizes their positional authority, “Do as I say not as I do” mentality, unapproachable, not open to input	
		Gains authority by loving and serving the flock, invites flock to do what he/she is modeling, easy to approach, open to input.	

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:**

- Which of the above characteristics do you see most strongly in yourself? Why do you think that is?
- What do you need from the Chief Shepherd to faithfully steward your role as shepherd of God’s flock?
- How does Peter’s vision of the future help us live as shepherds in the present?



# The heart of a Shepherd

## I PETER 5:1-4

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.



What is the relationship between elders, the flock, and the Chief shepherd?

Elders have been entrusted to care for God's flock. The elders are stewards, appointed to lead and care for those who belong to Jesus. In actuality they are undershepherds. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd and we are all (elders included) members of his flock. Elders who faithfully fulfill their role as shepherds of Jesus' flock will be rewarded by Jesus when he returns. Jesus rewards his faithful undershepherds by sharing with them his own unfading glory.

What are the characteristics of a faithful elder according to Peter? What does Peter contrast those characteristics with?

One who accepts and takes on the role willingly, is eager to serve the flock, and leads by example as opposed to one who is reluctantly compelled, is motivated by selfish interest, and wields their authority in a heavy handed fashion.

How do Peter's experiences and perspectives influence his paradigm for Christian leadership?

Peter has been shaped by the model of leadership embodied in Jesus. Jesus was the ultimate shepherd who willingly poured his life out for the sake of the flock, who led by serving those around him, and who lived his life as an example for his followers to emulate. Elders who faithfully follow Jesus' example will be rewarded by Jesus when he returns by sharing with them his own unfading glory.

# The heart of a Shepherd

What inferences can you draw from this passage about Peter’s understanding of leadership?

- “Not because you must but because you are willing...”

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE AS YOU LEAD.**

- “Not greedy for money, but eager to serve...”

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT THE MOTIVATION OF WHY YOU LEAD.**

- “Not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD CARES ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU LEAD.**

	CHARACTERISTIC	AFFECT OF THE LEADER	EFFECT ON THE FLOCK
ATTITUDE	Reluctance/ Resistance	Only wanting to do the minimum required, complaining, inflexible, sees leadership role as a burden and ultimately the flock as a burden	Don't feel loved or valued by the leader, won't want to burden the leader with their needs, negatively affects their view of God and of leadership.
	Willingness	Love being with the flock, eagerness to go above and beyond, sees leadership role as a blessing.	Feel loved and cared for by their leader. Feel free to make their needs known, positively affects their view of God and of leadership.
MOTIVATION	Selfish Interest	Egocentric, manipulative, deceitful, focused on what they can get out of the leadership role, unwilling to sacrifice or pay costs for the sake of the flock	End up feeling used or manipulated instead of needs getting met., feel resentful or bitter towards leader, negatively effects view of God and leadership.
	Servanthood	Puts the needs of the flock before their own, willing to pay costs for the well being of the flock, trusts Chief Shepherd to meet their needs.	Needs get met, feel cared for, feel grateful for leader, positively effects view of God and leadership.
MANNER	Heavy-handed	Uses authority to promote their agenda, emphasizes their positional authority, “Do as I say not as I do” mentality, unapproachable, not open to input	Following the leader becomes a heavy burden, fear of leader drives obedience, can even drive people away from the flock altogether, negatively effects view of God and leadership.
	Lead by example	Gains authority by loving and serving the flock, invites flock to do what he/she is modeling, easy to approach, open to input.	People are given a positive model to follow after, they are encouraged to step through fears and choose obedience, they feel free to express concerns to the leader and positively effects view of God and leadership.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Which of the above characteristics do you see most strongly in yourself? Why do you think that is?
- What do you need from the Chief Shepherd to faithfully steward your role as shepherd of God’s flock?
- How does Peter’s vision of the future help us live as shepherds in the present?

The promise of our future reward of the crown of glory and of Christ’s favor motivates us to embody the positive characteristics described by Peter and modeled to us by Jesus himself.

