

# God Exalts the Humble

## 1 Peter 5:5-7

- Key to Peter's instruction to persecuted church is Gospel motive for submission
- *Every Christian's freedom is found in submitting to God.*
- This freedom is his motivation and blessing in submitting to other believers
- submitting to civil authorities (2:13) submission to slave masters (2:18) wives to husbands (3:1) husbands with corresponding respect to wives (3:7)
- Same motivation in how we speak of our hope: '*with gentleness & respect*' (3:15)
- It's the same Gospel motivation for the elders in shepherding God's flock (5:1-4)

### 1. Gospel Response: the young are to be humble before their elders (v.5a)

- Peter exhorts God's flock, beginning with the youngest to submit to the elders
- Peter begins with the younger because they are most likely to question the elders
- Young men: inclined to be restless & want to take action or a different direction
- "clothe your selves all of you with humility" Peter is thinking of Jesus (Jn 13:4)
- God alone made us & without Him "even youths shall faint and grow weary"

### 2. Gospel Response The necessity of humility in the congregation (5b)

- By definition the church is a gathering of the humble. None of us can boast!
- Jesus said the flesh profits for nothing (Jn 6:63) Paul echoes the same (Phil 3:3)
- Our natural brokenness ought to keep us coming daily to the suffering Christ
- Paul sums up our situation reminding us we have no room to boast (1 Cor 1:29)
- Our flesh has no strength, no natural ability to save our selves (Rom 7:14-18)
- Motivation for humility is God : 5:5 "*clothe yourselves with humility...because 'God opposes the proud...'*" 5:6 "*humble yourselves...that he may lift you up,*"
- God opposes the proud - Cain & Abel (Gen 4:1-13) Peter's pride (Mk 26:31-35)
- Peter humbled himself & entrusted himself to Christ & was restored (Mk 22:62)

### 3. Gospel Response: God's mighty hand will lift you up in due time (v.6,7)

- Peter does not say the Lord will humble you, he says "you humble yourself"
- God's mighty hand (Ex 6:1; 13:3-16) will lift us up at the right time
- Casting all our anxieties on Him for He (God) cares for us. (Matt 6:26)