

# **I Peter 5:1-7 Lead Well By Honoring Your Leaders**

The instructions in this passage are for those who are leaders in the church (elders, bishops, pastors), but the principles apply to all leaders, not just those who hold a title. Peter was an elder (not just a reference to his age, but also to his position of leadership), but his instructions are for all leaders to follow the example of the Lord Jesus in how they lead others.

## **The actions of a spiritual leader**

- Lead by feeding – Acts 20:28
  - A spiritual leader will teach others the word of God – Col. 3:16
  - A spiritual leader will nurture other believers
- Lead with forethought (oversight) – Acts 20:28
  - A spiritual leader will think about the needs of others before themselves – Philippians 2:4
  - A spiritual leader will be prepared to take care of the needs of other believers
- Lead without force
  - A spiritual leader will not try to get people to do what he wants (strong arm)
  - A spiritual leader will not push his personal agendas
- Lead freely
  - A spiritual leader will draw the best out of others
  - A spiritual leader will allow the spiritual gifts of others to shine
- Lead with or without funds
  - A spiritual leader will not demand compensation for their leadership
  - A spiritual leader will give without expecting anything in return
- Lead with fervor
  - A spiritual leader will be ready to lead when the occasion arises
  - A spiritual leader not allow themselves to slack off – Ephesians 5:15
- Lead as a fellow
  - A spiritual leader will not lord over others
  - A spiritual leader serve instead of being served – Matthew 20:28

- Lead by being someone others can follow
  - A spiritual leader will show the way for others to follow
  - A spiritual leader will not wait for others to move

## **The attitudes of a spiritual leader**

- Be submissive
  - A spiritual leader can't lead properly until they have learned to submit properly
  - A spiritual leader will submit to truth, regardless of who it is coming from
- Be humble
  - A spiritual leader will wear humility like clothing (it must be put on daily)
  - A spiritual leader will learn to humble themselves so God will not have to
- Be free of care
  - A spiritual leader will not try to carry the weight of leading others – Matthew 11:28-30
  - A spiritual leader will cast the care of leadership on the Lord

## **Group discussion questions**

- How have you taught others what God has taught you recently?
- Name 3 people you will care for this week.
- Why do you think it is a better leadership approach to lead people to serve willingly rather than trying to force them to serve the way you want?
- Why is it so difficult to serve others without expecting anything in return?
- Is it true that leaders have the "easy job" because they get to tell others what to do? Why or why not?
- Should you expect certain "perks" as a spiritual leader? Why or why not?
- If leaders waited around until somebody was ready to follow them, would anything get accomplished? Why or why not?
- Are you open to learn from anybody? Who are you unwilling to learn from?
- Explain spiritual humility?
- Why is it better to cast all your care upon the Lord?