

ALIENATED

THE GOSPEL IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD



Scripture

¹So 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: ²shepherd 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; ³not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵Likewise, 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.”

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. ¹³She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (1 Peter 5:1-14 ESV)

Outline

Big Idea: Seek the peace of God in and through your spiritual family

Point 1. Leaders are to lead by example

Point 2. Submitting to leaders is an act of faith that grows you

Point 3. Being humble will confirm and establish you in Christ

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: How and who did you pray for, seeking the peace of God in the church family this past week?

Point 1: Leaders are to lead by example

- How does the metaphor of "shepherds" describe the role of church leaders? What qualities should shepherds possess?
- Verse 3 warns against "lording over" the flock. What does this mean, and how can leaders avoid this temptation?

Point 2: Submitting to leaders is an act of faith that grows you

- Why is submitting to church leaders important for the health of the church?
- What does it mean to "submit yourselves to one another" in the context of the church? How can we demonstrate humility and respect for one another?
- How can we balance our desire for autonomy with the need for submission within the church?

Point 3: Being humble will confirm and establish you in Christ

- What does it mean to "humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God"? How does humility lead to spiritual growth and maturity?
- Verse 7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." How can humility help us to trust in God's providence and find peace in our lives?
- How can we resolve conflicts and disagreements within the church in a way that promotes unity and peace?

Application Questions:

- How can we foster a culture of respect and mutual support within our church community?
- How can we cultivate humility in our daily lives? What practices or disciplines can help us to develop a humble spirit?

Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.