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CD602 - Proclamation and Communication
Date: March 27th, 2023.

Maniscript

{Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1-4}¹

1. And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you:
2. Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.
3. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.
4. And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.
5. In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

{From Dr. Reimer}²

Subject: Why should elders serve willingly and sacrificially?

Complement: Because the crown of glory that never fades away is your reward.

Point: Before the crown comes the cross. Leaders take the way of the cross, because it's the path to the crown.

{Summary of the book from rom Bible Project}³

Simon as Kephas = Peter (the Rock Matthew 16:18-19)

The letter was written in Rome by both Peter and his coworker, Silvanus (5:12-13) to the persecuted Christians in Asia Minor who were experiencing hostility and harassment (2:12; 3:16; 4:16).

¹ 1 Peter 5:1-4 (NLT)

² Rob Reimer, "1 Peter 5:1-4" (YouTube, Nyack College - Alliance Theological Seminary, Rockland County, NY, 10/2/2018) assessed on 3/23/2023 from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wA6s9D4psp4>.

³ "Book Review: 1 Peter," *BibleProject*, March 26, 2023, <http://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-peter/>

According to Peter, Christians are living as a new family identity (1:13 - 2:10), and they are constantly facing suffering as a witness to Jesus (2:11-4:11). Peter encouraged Christians to submit to power and authority and be liberated to love their enemy (2:13-17). Peter also reminded Christians that they would be vindicated and exalted through Baptism to reunite with Jesus. Christians were also encouraged to rejoice and have eyes on the future hope from their suffering. He encouraged the elders to take care of the younger ones for the church as the real enemy is the spiritual evil (4:12 - 5:9), and resist it with firm faithfulness (5:9).

{Additional Ingredient}

1.  TikTok CEO grilled by Congress over national security threat
2. Getting rid of online streaming in order to encourage brothers and sisters to return to church for worship service as the church re-opens from the pandemic.

{Manuscript}

~ VO with PowerPoint: Scripture of the passage ~

Hello Brothers and Sisters. My name is Calvin. It is my pleasure to share God's word with you all today. Before I begin, Let us pray.

~ Pray ~

~ Introduction: The news from NBC ~

Recently, I watched the news and acknowledged about the fair hearing of a social media application called "TikTok". It's an application you can download to your phone for free. It allows you to record video to share with other users your talents like singing, dancing, performing some stunts, or even reporting something that happens right in front of you like a reporter. It sounds fun, right? However, the U.S. Government is considering banning the application for a national security reason and had a fair hearing with the CEO, Mr. Shou Zi Chew. The application has already been banned or restricted from government devices in 43 states, and the House Committee of Energy and Commerce utilized this hearing to see if the application has to be banned completely. The congress is concerned the application is actually tracking GPS and many other personal information of citizens of the United States to China. I don't know what your stand is on the issue. As I watch this news from NBC, the anchor indeed reported a young artist who produces on Tiktok responding to the hearing. He sounded with anger and accused many members of the committee don't even understanding how important the application is to them, and some of them even say the name of the application wrong. How would you feel when you watched this news?

~ Reflection on the relationship between Elders and Younger ones in church ~

This news made me think about the bible verse we are studying today. The issue of TikTok and the fair hearing allowed me to see the younger generation is having a big argument on an issue about technology being banned. From the scripture, we can see Peter particularly talks about elders as caregivers of the church, and the younger ones must accept the authority of the elder. Peter talked about the reason why the elderly should care the flock that God had entrusted to you (v2), and the younger must accept the authority of the elder (v5). The news reminded me about the relationship between the youth and elders in our church. The House committee of Energy and Commerce is trying to find out if the banishment of the application is necessary, and the younger ones were furious to say that the committee members don't even know about the application. It's a perfect demonstration of bipartisanship not only in political point of view but also the relationship and its rapport between generations. To protect the well-being of the citizens, the congress had a concern about an application and started a hearing and investigation process. Meanwhile, the younger ones think the congressmen do not understand what the application meant to them, or even know about the application but ban it unreasonably. Have you encountered a similar issue in church today? Certainly, this is not what God and Peter want to see among brothers and sisters. However, what can we do to avoid or even turn such conflict into a blessing for our church?

~ We are living in a world against us ~

In the scripture we are studying today, verse 4 is an indicative portion of Peter's message. He stated "And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor."⁴ Great Shepherd, certainly what he meant was Jesus. What Peter was talking about in verse 4 is we will be crowned as Jesus returns. What will we be crowned with? He said we will be crowned with never-ending glory and honor. How many of you know that you will be crowned tomorrow? I guess if I ask this question in a live sermon, nobody would raise their hand. What Peter was talking about here isn't something happening tomorrow. It is a journey. Our faith journey. In chapter 2:12, Peter reminded us "**Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.**"⁵ At the beginning of this book, Peter had already told us that we are living among an unbelieving neighbor and will be accused of doing wrong, but we can always act honorably and give glory to God. In chapter 3:16, Peter said "**But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.**"⁶ Peter asked us to behave gently and respectfully, so people who are against it will see what a good life you live as God's citizen. In chapter 4:16, Peter also said "**16 But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise**

⁴ 1 Peter 5:4 (NLT)

⁵ 1 Peter 2:12 (NLT)

⁶ 1 Peter 3:16 (NLT)

God for the privilege of being called by his name! ⁶⁷ He encourages brothers and sisters to not be ashamed of their suffering. These three bible verses are telling us one particular thing, It is we will suffer living as Christian. Peter encouraged us to behave righteously and submit to oppression and wrongful accusation. That sounds exhausting and frustrating, right? Yup! This is how much you will pay to receive the never-ending glory and honor.

~ How are we going to survive until we receive our never-ending glory and honor? ~

In our Christian journey, brothers and sisters faced oppressions in the time of 1 Peter. What kind of suffering are we facing nowadays? And how are we going to survive from it? In Chapter 5, Peter first reminded the elders to **Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it and lead them by your own good example (v2-3)**. He then also asked the younger ones **must accept the authority of the elders (v5)**. These 4 verses allow us to see the relationship between elders and the younger one in church is a key component of the truth of God. Peter asked the elder to first lead the younger ones by being a good example. In the time of ever changing, the elders were capable and entrusted by God to see what is right and what is wrong to do by their life experience. On the other hand, he asked the younger one to submit the authority of the elders. For so many times, I kept on thinking Peter was asking the younger ones in church to NOT CHALLENGE the authority of the elders. However, I could not accept this is what Peter means here in this chapter. With the example of the young TikTok users accusing the congressmen for accusing the CEO of TikTok, I realized first the younger people tend to judge things with their youthful lust.

I don't mean the younger ones are all lustful but simultaneously judge different problems with their own instinctual emotion. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul also mentioned **Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts,**⁸ as his final reminder to Timothy. He encouraged Timothy, a good helper and disciples of his to run away from youthful lust and not only pursue righteous living, but also enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure heart. Peter indeed reminded the elder to first be a good example to lead the younger ones to the Lord. Do not count on what they would get from it and not lead them grudgingly. While the elder is leading with their good example, the younger ones should enjoy and respect the authority of the elder that God had entrusted to them.

In society, the TikTok app may be fun and potentially help people to be popular, but also potentially leading the country to a national crisis. In Church, the younger ones may think many lifestyles or things to do are reasonably righteous like the homosexual marriage and abortion, The elders may be conservative about many new ideas popping out in this modern society through globalization. They are surely more capable to maintain a pure heart and seek the Lord

⁷ 1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

⁸ 2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT)

for the answer. Therefore, Peter did not mean to ask the younger one to submit to the elder blindly, but to seek God with pure heart in order to create a defense mechanism with a strong bonding against the challenge from satan. When rapport is developed between the elder and the younger ones in church, the truth of God and the teaching of the Holy Spirit can be passed on continuously and be a strong defense of our Christian faith. We can then grow and live righteously together.

Therefore, I am here to encourage you all who are elders and the younger ones, take care of each other, constantly reminding and teaching each other, and live faithfully together until Jesus rewards us with never-ending glory and honor of being his children as Peter had reminded us.

Let's Pray

~ Closing Prayer ~