

***RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES***  
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION –  
1 Peter 5:1-7

Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

1. Who are the elders?
2. When did Peter witness the sufferings of Christ?
3. What does Peter exhort his fellow elders to do?
4. How do you think elders shepherd the flock of God or ‘exercise oversight’?
5. What is significant about the church being called the flock of God? How is this term similar or different to the other descriptions of the church throughout the letter of 1 Peter? (1 Peter 1:1; 2:5, 9, 11; 4:17)
6. Elders are to model and be examples of the Christian life. So the warnings to them need to be heeded by all of us. Can you think of areas in your life that are more characterised by compulsion, for gain or domineering rather than willingly, eagerly and as an example (v2-3)?

Read 5:5

7. Peter calls on the church to submit to the elders. Where do you find this easy? Where do you find this difficult? What other factors make it more or less difficult?
8. What are some of the common ways that people misunderstand submission? How would you describe what submission actually means?
9. How could reluctance or refusal to submit to elders be evidence of pride? Why is this a problem?

Read 5:6-7

10. Among the church family, who is clothe themselves with humility? Why?
11. Why is prayer the instrument with which we humble ourselves?
12. Peter commands us to cast our cares on God – knowing that ‘he cares for you’. What do you need to cast upon God? What is stopping you?
13. Praise God for the fact that he knows you and cares for you.

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TALK OUTLINE – 15 September 2013  
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How do we govern ourselves as a church?

**Point One – Shepherding the flock of God v1-4**

- The church is the precious flock of God
  - Psalm 23:1-2
  - Ezekiel 34:15-16
  - John 10:27-28
- Elders shepherd:

<b>Not ...</b>	<b>But</b>
Under compulsion	willingly
For shameful gain	Eagerly
Domineering	as an example

**Point Two – Submitting to Elders v5**

Being subject to the elders does not mean...

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Submitting yourself to someone means willingly placing yourself under their authority and leadership

**Point Three – Humility is the way for the flock of God 6-7**

- Humility is the antidote to pride!
- Humble ourselves now and God will lift us up then
- Demonstrate your humility by casting your cares on God.