



## "The Greatness of Being Least"

11091Pe5.5(97)

### 1 Peter 5:5



**5** You young men, likewise, be subject to your elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

– 1 Peter 5:5, As translated from the Greek New Testament by Tony A. Bartolucci.

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The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

#### Introduction:

- \* The contextual dilemma of verse 5
- \* The key word in the passage is H\_\_\_\_\_ (Be sure God likes what you're wearing)

#### I. Looking Up: Humility as Submission to the Elders (5a)

A. "likewise" (*homoios* | ὁμοίως) is the first word in the Greek text – marks a transition (cf. same word used in 3:1,7)

B. Big question is "Who are the 'young men' and who are the 'elders?'"

1. We saw that the "elders" of v. 1 refer to local church pastors

a. While the same word for "elder" (*presbuteros* | πρεσβυτερος) is used here some think that Peter has shifted his attention away from leaders per se to all of the older men in the congregation. (e.g. Calvin)

(1) While that's possible it seems unlikely – The most natural would be to understand the two words in so close proximity to one another to refer to the same thing

2. Who are the "young men?" that are to be subject to the elders?

a. They are literally *neoteros* (νεώτερος) – could simply be younger believers within the congregations to whom Peter writes (cf. The Epistle of Polycarp, 5:3)

b. "Submit" (*hupotassō* | ὑποτάσσω) – Cf. 2:13,18; 3:1,22

- c. Why does Peter specifically target the young here?
- d. Submission not limited to the younger (cf. 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7,17)

(1) For most Christians the idea of submitting themselves to their pastors is effectively meaningless

C. Remember 5:2-3 (the key is humility)

"We may lawfully disobey any authority when that authority commands us to do something God forbids, or forbids us to do something God commands."

## II. Looking Out: Humility as Consideration for One Another (5b)

- A. "All of you" means every one of you regardless of age or class
- B. What is "humility?"
  - 1. "clothe" (a related word referred to a slave's apron) – this is to be girded with the mind of a servant (cf. John 13:1-17)
- C. Peter closes this verse with a warning and a promise (cf. Prov. 3:34, LXX; James 4:6)
- D. Why does God give grace to the humble even as he hates pride?
  - A. Pride is treason against God's sole claim to worship
  - B. Pride is an affront to His sufficiency (as such pride demonstrates a lack of \_\_\_\_\_)
- E. What Does Pride Look Like?
  - 1. Prideful people are self-centered
  - 2. Prideful people always has to be right
  - 3. The Proud Have to Have things their way
  - 4. Prideful people are self-righteous
  - 5. Prideful people are in a never ending search for self-significance (cf. Luke 22)
    - a. "Porn and Paper Pastors"
  - 6. Prideful people are like Diotrephes (3 John 1:9)

"I cannot pray," wrote Bishop Berkeley, "but I sin; I cannot preach, but I sin; I cannot administer, nor receive the holy sacrament, but I sin. My very repentance needs to be repented of: and the tears I shed need washing in the blood of Christ."

John Bradford, martyred under the persecution of bloody Mary in 16th century England, while yet in prison concluded his letter to fellow prisoner: "The sinful John Bradford; a very painted hypocrite; the most miserable, hardhearted, and unthankful sinner, John Bradford."