

message

exile community

EXILES | 1 PETER 5:1-14 | DECEMBER 26/27, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.'" (1 Peter 5:5)

Exile Leaders (1 Peter 5:1-5)

Exile Humility (1 Peter 5:5-7)

Exile Conflict (1 Peter 5:8-11)

Exile Stance (1 Peter 5:12-14)

study guide

1. We conclude our series, "Exiles," on 1 Peter by looking at chapter 5. Begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak into your life, and then read that passage aloud.
2. Peter draws his letter to a close by discussing some final matters about the life as God's exile community on earth. He begins by addressing "the elders among you," which is a reference to the leaders of the church. What does Peter call these leaders to be and do in verses 1-4?
3. What should motivate these leaders of the church, according to verse 4?
4. With verses 5-6, Peter turns his attention to the rest of the church. It is most likely that "you who are younger" is less a reference to age than it is to the rest of the church who are not seen as 'elders' or leaders. What does Peter call the rest of the church to do in relation to the elders? What do you think this means?
5. What should the defining attitude of the church be according to verses 5-6? Why?
6. What do you think it means to "clothe yourself with humility"? What is one way you could clothe yourself in humility this week?
7. In verses 8-11, Peter contrasts the work of the devil and the work of God. What is the work of the devil in relation to the sheep and the shepherds (compare to verses 1-5)?
8. What should our response be to the work of the devil?
9. According to verses 10-11 God is at work in the middle of all of this. What do we know about God and what can we expect from God?
10. What does it mean to you that God will work with and for you according to verses 10-11?
11. The personal greetings of verses 12-14 remind us that Peter himself lives as an exile ("in Babylon") and is surrounded by others who are living out the exile faith-life with God. His summary statement is found at the end of verse 12. What is it and what do you think it means for you?
12. What is one specific thing you sense God is speaking to you through this study today or through the entire "Exiles" series? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray about what you share together. If you are studying on your own, write it down, pray about it, and share this with someone during the next few days.

[Next week: *We begin the new year with a new series entitled "Jesus Changes Everything." Join us!]*