

INTRO:

- Thank you for having me
- My first time in E.Europe

- **SLIDE 1** -

Al Baker, 67 yrs

- From Alabama in the U.S.A.
- Non-Christian home
- Became a Christian in 1976
at the age of 17
- Married Heather in 1983
- Celebrated 43 yrs in March

- SLIDE 2 -

These are the women in my life.

Hope just turned 36. Erin is 31.

42 years ago the Lord spoke to me that I was do a PhD in Early Church History...then teach in a seminary.

It took 14 years for me to finally go to school for my degree.

After getting my PhD it another 24 years for God open the door to teach in a seminary.

[I think I am a slow learner!]

- SLIDE 3 -

I am in my second year as a professor at Continental Theological Seminary...in Brussels.

I hope to teach there for 15 yrs.

My primary expertise is the first 4 centuries of Church History and I also teach various NT classes.

So, let's get into the text today to see what the Lord would say to us through the scriptures.

- SLIDE 4 -

The Witness of Jesus

1 Peter 5

+ + + Let's Pray + + +

If you follow along you will notice that I pass over a few clauses to get right to the point.

- SLIDE 5 -

5:1 To the elders among you...as a fellow elder and witness of Christ's sufferings...

2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them not because you have to, but because you are willing to serve...

3 *not lording* it over those entrusted to you, *but being examples* to the flock.

Not "*lording over*."

This is the same Greek word Jesus uses in the gospels when He says

you will NOT lead like the Gentiles do, *lording* it over others...

Paul uses this term only once.
This is an early example of the sayings of Jesus.

Paul did not have the gospels in front of him...he is using an oral tradition...passed down to him by word of mouth.

I will pass over v4...it is not the thrust of this text.

- SLIDE 6 -

5 In the same way, you who are younger, **submit yourselves** to your elders.

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward **one another** [*allelous*]...

What does the writer mean when he says, "in the same way..."

I think he means [like he says in v2]
not because you **have to**, but because
you are willing to serve...

When I was in university ministry we had an intentional discipline of using *allelous*.

We would actually have sessions that we called "Allelous"

It was basically sharing our lives with "*one another*" ...*allelous*.

Please allow me to share just a bit about this very important word in the NT letters.

AFTER the gospels and Acts...

allelous is used 50+ times in the NT letters.

You will recognize this word as I give you some examples:

- **SLIDE 7** -

"love *one another*"

"live in harmony with *one another*"

"encourage *one another*"

"serve *one another*"

"do not judge *one another*"

Here's a great *allelous* verse:

Be kind and compassionate to *one another*, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Eph 4:32

I pastored a little church for 8.5 years prior to joining the seminary. I preached *allelous* to them many times.

In fact my final message to the church was on *allelous*.

Why? Because it seems like we struggle to live out *allelous* in the church.

- SLIDE 8 -

I believe v5 of this chapter in *1 Peter* is THE message of this chapter:

"clothe yourselves with humility
toward *one another*..."

(in my opinion)

This verse summarizes what the
writer has already written:

The elders are supposed to serve
the flock...with humility...

And what is the model for this?

Jesus, The Son of God, came not to
be served, but to serve others and to
give His life as a ransom.

Like Jesus, as leaders we are
supposed to serve...

Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

"In the same way...clothe yourselves **with humility** toward *one another*..."

As a pastor I always tried to model *allelous* to the congregation.

Was I *always* a good example?

No. I failed from time to time.

I'm NOT Jesus...

But I must strive for this attitude.

- SLIDE 9 -

Again, look at v5:

All of you, clothe yourselves with
humility toward **one another** [*allelous*]...

ALL of you includes the pastors.
I believe that as the pastor, I must
submit myself to the church in
humility.

I'm NOT the boss.

I'm NOT the CEO of the church.

It's NOT MY church.

I have had several men tell me that my idea about this is wrong...and that's fine.

I believe this text affirms my view.

The younger Christians are to submit to the leaders..."in the same way"

This again, is pointing to how Jesus served...

And this is how our leaders are to serve...like Jesus,

Not "*lording*" it over others.

BUT ALL us are supposed to
clothe ourselves **with humility**
toward *one another*..."
and serve *one another*...
and submit to *one another*.

THIS is how we reach people.
When others walk into a church and
see how kind we are to *one another*

...how we honor *one another*
...how we serve *one another*
...how we love *one another*
...that is attractive.

We welcome new people...
We want them to be a part.
We want ***to serve them*** with
humility,
AND we want them to
serve ***one another***
Not because they *have to*,
but because they want to.

BUT...new Christians need to SEE
it working....in Us!

+ + + LET'S PRAY + + +