L GROUNDWORK

How to Live as Christians

In closing his first letter to the early Christians, Peter offers some final advice that remains valuable for us today. Peter urged his readers to remain vigilant in their faith and act with love and humility. Speaking to their anxiety, he assured them that God indeed cared and that he would ultimately have the final say. Today, we can stand firm in our faith because we are not alone; in everything, it is the God of all glory who calls us, restores us, and makes us strong.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What qualities do you think help people live well together in a community, and why?
- How would you explain what it means to be "sober-minded"?



READ <u>1 Peter 4-5</u>

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Where in your life have you witnessed love covering "a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8)?
- How does the character and behavior God desires in the good shepherds of his flock (as Peter instructs in <u>1 Peter 5:1-11</u> and Jesus teaches in <u>Matthew 20:25-28</u>) compare to those of the shepherds God said he would remove from their positions in <u>Ezekiel 34:1-16</u>? Are there any pastors, elders, or church leaders in your life that you think exemplify good shepherds well? How has leading God's people this way impacted their ministry?
- At the end of segment 2, host Scott Hoezee reminds us that humility or humbleness is not humiliation. Why is this an important distinction to make? How does it aid our understanding of what it means to be humble?
- What situations or circumstances are there in your life that you feel comforted knowing God has the final say over them?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

<u>1 Corinthians 13, Matthew 20:25-28, Ezekiel 34:1-16, Proverbs 3:34, Matthew 5:1-12, John 15:18-16:33, 2</u> Corinthians 4:16-18

CONCLUSION

Throughout his letter, the apostle Peter repeatedly encourages believers to stand firm in their faith. He doesn't leave them on their own to do so. He writes of the need for love and humility in order to represent Christ and live well together. He offers comfort and assurance that no matter the pressure or temptation to compromise our faith, God indeed cares, and will have the final say. It is God who ultimately gives us the strength we need to endure and remain steadfast. Reflect on Scott and Darrell's discussion of <u>1 Peter 4-5</u>. What teachings of Peter's challenged you most, encouraged you most, or comforted you most?

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