



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

Introduction:

- This morning, we come to our final message in the book of 1 Peter.
 - And through this letter, Peter has been teaching us how we can remain faithful to Christ in a broken world.
- Just think about all we've learned.
 - We've seen how we need to look to our living hope in Jesus Christ.
 - We've seen how we're all missionaries no matter where we live.
 - And how we can prepare others to hear the gospel through our godly conduct.
 - We've seen how we need to grow in love.
- And as we come to our last sermon.
 - Peter shows us one more vital characteristic we all need to have, if we want to remain faithful to Christ.
 - This morning we're going to look at the importance of cultivating humility in our lives.
 - Because if we want to remain faithful to Christ in a broken world, we need to pursue a humble heart.
- And I want us to consider two important questions this morning.
 - First, we'll look at why we need to pursue humility.
 - And second, we'll look at how we can grow in humility.
- Why is humility so important for the Christian life?

1. The Mark:

- First, humility is important because it's a necessary mark for every Christian believer.
 - It's not just for pastors and leaders.
 - It's not just for mature believers.
 - Every follower of Jesus Christ is called to pursue humility.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- Take a look at chapter 5 verse 5.
 - **“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility...”** 1 Peter 5:5
- Peter commands us to wear humility like we wear our clothes.
 - In the morning, we all need to decide what to wear.
 - And depending on the occasion, we'll choose a different outfit.
 - We may wear a dress to a wedding.
 - Or a Hawaiian shirt to a picnic.
 - But for Christian believers, we're called to clothe ourselves with a humble heart.
 - That's what we're called to wear every day.
- When we go to work.
 - When we go to church.
 - When we're at school.
 - When we're with our family.
 - We're called to clothe ourselves with humility.

2. The Warning:

- Second, humility is important to pursue because God opposes the proud.
 - When we grow in pride instead of humility, the Bible says we're in danger of contending with God.
- Take a look at verse 5.
 - **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”** 1 Peter 5:5
- This verse actually says that God actively opposes those who are proud.
 - God doesn't just leave the proud alone.
 - He stands against their plans.
- And let's remember God isn't just speaking to those who don't believe in him.
 - He's speaking to Christian believers.
- Listen to what Pastor Colin Smith writes:



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- “Remember that Peter is writing to Christian believers. He is making it clear that it is possible to throw all the effort of your life into serving Christ and yet to achieve nothing of lasting significance. If God opposes me, or stands in the way of what I seek to do in His name, then it will all come to nothing.” (10 Keys, 117, Smith)
- Do you see what the Bible is saying?
 - You can work really hard.
 - You may even think you're working for the Lord.
 - But if you act in pride.
 - If you don't submit to his will.
 - God may stand against your plans.
- We see an example of this in Numbers 14.
 - God's people thought they could defeat their enemies.
 - They thought they were doing good.
 - But they were acting in pride.
 - God specifically told them not to fight.
 - But they went anyway.
 - And they lost the battle.
- If we say to ourselves:
 - “I know what I'm doing.”
 - “I know what's best.”
 - Instead of looking to God's will.
 - It's possible that God may actually oppose our plans.

3. The Promise:

- Third, humility is important to pursue because God gives grace to the humble.
 - Think about the promise God is making to us.
 - God opposes the proud.
 - But he gives grace to the humble.
 - This doesn't mean we can earn God's grace.
 - But it does mean our humility draws God's attention.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- Grace is a free gift of God.
 - He gives grace to sinners.
 - He gives abundant grace to those who don't deserve it.
 - But humility puts us in a place where God longs to shower down his grace.
- One Bible teacher writes:
 - "The person who is humble is the one who draws God's attention, and in this sense, drawing His attention means also attracting His grace...Think about that: There's something you can do to attract more of God's gracious, underserved, supernatural strength and assistance!" (Mahaney, 20, Humility)
- Do you see what this means?
 - When we humble ourselves.
 - And give up control.
 - And trust in the Lord.
 - And submit to this will.
 - God will pour out this grace.
 - Listen to James 4:10.
 - It says in the NIV:
 - **"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."**

4. The Command:

- Fourth, we need to pursue humility, because humility doesn't just automatically grow.
 - It's something we need to work on for the rest of our lives.
 - It's a command we need to follow.
- That's why in verse 6, it says:
 - **"Humble yourselves..."** 1 Peter 5:6
 - And I want you to notice how this is a command.
 - Humility is a choice we need to make every day.
- In Isaiah chapter 2 verse 12 it says:



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- **“For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up-and it shall be brought low...”** Isaiah 2:12
 - Eventually God will bring down everyone who is proud.
 - But that doesn't have to be us.
 - Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can humble ourselves and grow in humility.
- And so, for the rest of the sermon, I want us to consider how we can cultivate humility in our lives.
 - How can we humble ourselves?

1. Cultivate a teachable heart:

- First, we can pursue humility by cultivating a teachable heart.
- Again, take a look at verse 5.
 - **“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.”** 1 Peter 5:5
- In verse 5, Peter specifically addresses younger people and tells them to be subject to their elders.
 - Now, it's good that younger people respect older people.
 - But if you look at verses 1 to 4.
 - Peter has been speaking about leaders in the church.
 - And so in verse 5, Peter is directing younger believers to subject themselves to spiritual leaders.
 - This doesn't just include our elders.
 - But I would broaden the application to include pastors, and deacons, and LIFE Group leaders, and other mature leaders in the church.
- In our younger years.
 - We may feel confident about how we want to live.
 - And how we want to parent our kids.
 - And the kind of work we want to do.
 - And how we feel the world ought be.
 - But as you get older, you'll see that some things you were really certain about begin to change.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- And I know this is true, because when I look back at my years in high school and college, I can't help but cringe at some of the things I did.
 - I remember practicing my guitar for hours instead of studying, because I wanted to impress my friends in youth group.
 - And in youth group, I'd wait for the right moment to show off my guitar skills.
 - I remember emailing my pastor and critiquing his sermon when I was in college.
 - And giving him some pointers.
 - I had no idea what I was talking about.
- I'm not saying younger people can't ever correct those who are older.
 - It was good that Jonathan spoke up to his father Saul, to correct his actions against David.
- But humility is about recognizing how we still have much to learn.
- Now, I want to be clear.
 - More time doesn't mean someone will automatically grow in wisdom.
 - There are plenty of older people who are very foolish.
- But it's good to seek godly mentors.
 - There are many things we can learn in the classroom or from the internet.
 - But there are also things we can only learn through experience, and correction, and failure, and suffering.
 - That's why there's so much you can learn from older leaders.
 - Who've been through the fire.
 - Who've faced conflict.
 - And yet have remained faithful to Christ.
- Do you remember the story of King Rehoboam?
 - In 1 Kings chapter 12.
 - He took counsel with the older men in the kingdom.
 - And they told him to lighten the load of work and to be encouraging to the people.
 - But he rejected their counsel.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- Instead, he listened to the younger counselors who grew up with him.
 - They told him to make the people work even harder than before.
 - And he ended up dividing the kingdom because he refused to listen.
- And so, if you're younger.
 - Don't get your advice from social media.
 - Don't just listen to advice from your peers.
 - Rather, spend time with older mature believers.
 - Ask them to grab coffee or lunch.
 - Go to men's events and women's events.
 - Ask them about marriage, and parenting, and work, and faith.
 - Watch how they handle hardship in life.
 - It's possible to learn more about the Christian life in one meeting with a mature believer, than through months, even years of trying to figure things out yourself.
- And if you're older.
 - When a younger person approaches you.
 - Please make time for them.
 - Take time to mentor, and pray, and teach, and guide.
- You can grow in humility by cultivating a teachable heart and learning from wise spiritual leaders.

2. Commit to a local church:

- Second, we can pursue humility when we commit to a local church.
- Again verse 5 states:
 - **"Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders."** 1 Peter 5:5
- This verse is speaking to younger believers.
 - But it's also assuming a structure of spiritual authority in the church.
 - In other words, though Peter addresses younger believers, he's also reminding all of us to subject ourselves to spiritual authority.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- There are some people today who believe they don't need the local church.
 - They can listen to sermons online.
 - They can read the Bible themselves.
 - But throughout the Bible, we see how God desires his people to be together.
 - Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12.
 - How we need one another.
 - The eye can't say to the hand, I don't need you.
 - Nor can the head say to the feet, I don't need you.
 - We're all part of the body of Christ and we need each other.
- And one important aspect of a church that's necessary for us, is having spiritual authority over our lives.
 - It's not only about being teachable.
 - It's also about placing ourselves under the authority of spiritual leaders.
- Listen to Hebrews chapter 13, verse 17:
 - **"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account."** Hebrews 13:17
 - It's God's design that all believers gather together.
 - And worship together.
 - And learn together.
 - And a part of that is obeying and submitting to spiritual leaders.
- Now, of course, we're not called to blindly follow even when leaders act in sin.
 - If spiritual leaders are abusing their authority.
 - If they're not rightly teaching God's word.
 - We may need to confront them.
 - We may even need to leave a certain church.
- But God has provided pastors and other spiritual leaders to help us in our spiritual walk.
- Think about all the ways a shepherd helps his flock.
 - He protects them from danger.
 - He leads them to green pastures.
 - He goes after them when they get lost.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- He cares for them when they're hurting.
 - He redirects them when they're going in the wrong direction.
- And that's what pastors and spiritual leaders in the church can do for you.
 - They protect you from false teaching.
 - They feed you with God's word.
 - They go after you if you start drifting away.
 - They listen and counsel you when you're in pain.
 - They know you and pray for you.
 - And they even correct you, when you're going in the wrong direction.
- It may be that some of you put yourself under spiritual authority at one point.
 - And instead of being protected.
 - You may have been hurt.
 - And you may feel hesitant to put yourself under the authority of the church again.
- If that is you, I just want to say.
 - I'm so sorry you had to go through that experience.
 - I know the pain is real.
 - And it may take time for you to trust the leadership of a church.
 - But remember there are also godly leaders.
 - Pastors and elders are called to watch over the flock.
 - That's God's design.
 - And so, don't let your experience keep you from the blessing of being a part of a church where you can grow and find joy and sit under the projection of godly leaders.
- And remember how Jesus loves the church.
 - He died for the church.
 - Though the church looks imperfect today.
 - There will come a day when Jesus will purify his bride.
 - And he'll present us without any blemish, or stain, or wrinkle.
 - And so, let's commit to the church.
 - Let's love the church.
 - Let's serve the church.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- Let's forgive, as Christ forgave us.
- And allow godly spiritual leaders to speak into our lives because they keep watch over our souls.
- You can grow in humility by committing yourself to a local church.

3. Seek heavenly greatness:

- Third, you can grow in humility by pursuing heavenly greatness.
- Listen to verse 6:
 - **“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you...”**
- Peter says that God exalts those who humble themselves.
 - In other words, true greatness isn't found in exalting yourself.
 - Or serving yourself.
 - Rather, it's found in serving others.
 - It's found in putting others first.
- And I want you to notice how the Bible never says that we have to give up our desire for greatness.
 - Rather, it redefines what true greatness is.
 - The Bible shows us the kind of greatness that we need to seek.
- One Bible teacher states:
 - “Jesus does not categorically criticize or forbid the desire and ambition to be great. Instead, He clearly redirects that ambition, redefines it, and purifies it...” (Mahaney, 43, Humility)
- Consider how Jesus redefines greatness in his kingdom.
- Listen to Mark 10:43-44:
 - **“But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be a slave of all.”** Mark 10:43-44



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- Matthew 18 verse 4:
 - **“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”**
- And Peter writes:
 - **“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the might hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you...”**
- Do you see how Jesus redefines what greatness is?
 - In this world.
 - Greatness is about being noticed.
 - And having influence.
 - And gaining power.
 - And being served by others.
- But in the Bible, Jesus says that greatness is about:
 - Becoming a servant to all.
 - And having the heart of a child.
 - And submitting yourself under the mighty hand of God.
- And so many of you are already doing this.
 - Serving behind the scenes.
 - Caring for family members.
 - Raising your children in the Lord.
 - Faithfully praying.
 - Honoring God at work.
 - Encouraging those who are struggling.
 - Giving generously.
 - Showing hospitality.
- Pastor Lee Eclov who's now with the Lord, shared a story about a pastor friend of his.
 - A friend who he felt displayed true greatness and humility.
 - Listen to what he writes:



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- A friend of mine who had been a senior pastor was asked to stay on a few months after his successor arrived.
- “Are you preaching at all,” I asked him.
- “No,” he replied.
- “I’m not doing anything publicly anymore.”
- “Actually, I’m monitoring the bathrooms on Sunday morning.”
- (This was just as the church building was reopening after COVID-19.)
- “I sit on a chair between the doors and make sure only one person goes in at a time and then I go in and wipe everything down.”
- Then he added:
- “I don’t mind.”
- “I like it.”
- I admire him.
- ([Link](#))
- Greatness isn’t about being recognized.
 - Or being on the platform.
 - It’s about becoming a servant.
- And we can cultivate humility when we seek true greatness in the kingdom of heaven.

4. Cast your anxieties on God:

- Fourth, we can cultivate humility when we cast our anxieties on God.
- Let me read verses 6 and 7:
 - **“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the might hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”**
 - Do you notice how Peter connects humility and anxiety?
 - In other words, it’s by casting our anxieties to the Lord that we can practice humility in our lives.
 - This means we remember who’s in control.
 - It means we learn to trust God’s plan.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- And Peter gives us the reason why we can trust God's plan.
 - We can cast our anxieties on God because he cares.
 - We're not in control of what happens to our family, to our work, and to our church.
 - But God is.
 - And he cares for us.
 - That means we don't have to worry, but we can rest in God's power.
- In fact, we can't change anything by worrying about the future.
 - We can't add a single inch to our height.
 - Or add a single hour to our lives by worrying.
 - And so, let's cast our anxieties on Jesus.
 - Let's pray in our hearts:
 - "I can't control the outcome."
 - "So God, I trust in your plan."
- Another way we can trust God's plan is by honoring the work that others do.
 - There will be times when God puts others in charge, even though you think you can do a better job.
 - Do you ever feel like nothing will be properly organized unless you do it yourself?
 - Or get anxious and feel the need to take over?
 - That could be a sign of pride.
- In our first year of marriage.
 - I remember how I used to rewash the dishes after my wife washed the dishes.
 - I don't do that anymore.
 - Honestly, they were perfectly clean.
 - It was my pride.
- Humility is the ability to honor others, even though others do things differently than you.
 - It means honoring the responsibility God has given to others.
 - It means you trust the Lord to accomplish his will not only through you, but also through others.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- Pastor Colin Smith states:
- “Humility is accepting decisions that have already been made, rejoicing in the good work of other people, and in trusting others to organize what has been given to them without interfering.” (Smith, 114, 10 Keys)
- We can cultivate humility by casting our anxieties on God.

5. Look to God's grace:

- Finally, we can cultivate humility in our lives by looking to the grace of God.
- When you look throughout the Bible.
 - It's not filled with perfect people.
 - It's filled with people who committed many sins.
 - Abraham lied.
 - Moses ran away.
 - Jacob deceived.
 - Jonah refused to love.
 - Judah was sexually immoral.
 - David committed adultery and even murder.
 - Even Peter, the leader of the church denied Jesus three times.
 - But God didn't abandon them.
 - Instead, he sent his one and only Son to die for them.
- And isn't that what he did for us as well?
 - We were living in sin.
 - Living our own way.
 - And if Jesus didn't show his grace.
 - We could never be saved.
 - As we look to God's grace, let's humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.
 - Let's boast in nothing else but the grace of God.
 - Because the Bible isn't a story of perfect people.
 - It's a story of a gracious God.



THE ORCHARD

Care for God's People

1 Peter 5:1-13

Pastor Tom Yoon

August 30, 2026

- And so, let's pursue humility:
 - By cultivating a teachable heart.
 - By committing to a local church.
 - By seeking heavenly greatness.
 - By casting our anxiety on God.
 - And by looking to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - And when we do, we'll be able to live faithful lives in our world today and better shine the light of Jesus Christ.