

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church
Biblical Church Leadership
1 Peter 5:1-5

We are immersed in a culture of mavericks and do-it-yourselfers. We like our freedom and our individuality. We strive to control every aspect of our lives. Built into our system of government and into every society for that matter is the concept of authority, but the nature of Western individualism has led us to become increasingly more distrustful and resentful of authority.

1. Healthy leadership works with a kingdom mindset.

2. Healthy leadership cares with a kingdom compassion.

3. Healthy leadership serves with a kingdom humility.

Whether we are leading or following, the keys to success in kingdom work are humility and grace. Since we are all prone to pride, Peter reminds us that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” None of us like being told what to do or where to go, but during times of difficulty the Lord grants grace to those who humble themselves and listen. So here is the call: to walk in humility, honoring God, elders, and each other. It is as shepherds lead and sheep follow that we all walk with confidence and hope toward the end of all things and the inheritance that is ours.

Reflection

Why do we find it hard to accept that we are prone to wander and need a shepherd? In what way does this idea challenge you the most? How does this passage move you to pray for your leaders? How can you encourage the leaders of the church this week? Consider your leadership in the church. Are you placing expectations on your followers that you are unwilling to place on yourself? What difference will the expectation of an unfading “crown of glory” make to your leadership over the next month?