

**Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?**

**Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).**

**If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.**

**We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.**

**Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?**

**Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.**

**LIVE AS MATURING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**

**1 Peter 5:1-14**

**Main Thought:** We can live as maturing followers of Jesus Christ in a hostile world by applying the principles found in 1 Peter 5:1-14.

1. ELDERS \_\_\_\_\_ THE FLOCK. (vv 1-4)
  
2. THE FLOCK SHOULD \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE ELDERS. (v 5)
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELVES BEFORE GOD. (vv 5-6)
  
4. CAST ALL YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ ON GOD. (v 7)
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ THE DEVIL. (vv 8-9)
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ THE SOVEREIGN LORD. (vv 10-11)
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ WITH OTHER BELIEVERS. (vv 12-14)

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and reveal God's truth to you as you read 1 Peter 5:1-13.

2. In a couple of sentences, describe the focus of this passage? What's it about?

3. What do you learn about God in these verses?

4. What do you learn about yourself, believers, or humanity in general in these verses?

5. What verse(s) did you find to be the most meaningful? Why?

6. Was there a command in the verses that you need to obey? What was it? How will you respond to the command?

7. What verse(s) were difficult for you to understand? Were you able to research the verse and find an answer to your question? If so, what answer did you find?

8. What is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to do as a result of studying this passage?

Digging Deeper:

9. What other qualities should elders and other church leaders have according to the following Scriptures? (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9)

10. How are church members to treat the leaders of the church according to 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Timothy 5:19-20)

11. What does it mean to be humble as a Christian? (See Col. 3:12; Matt. 5:3; 20:26-27; Phil. 2:3-11; Gal 2:20; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:9)

12. How does Phil. 4:6-8 teach us to "cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us"?

13. What are some ways you have found that help you stand firm in your faith and resist the temptations of the devil? How did Jesus do it? (Matt. 4:1-11)