

Own Up #11

The Responsibility to Care

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 5:1-4

Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe that actions speak louder than words? Why?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. The world looks at Christians through the lens of how they access them. The saying that “actions speak louder than words” rings no truer than when followers of Jesus Christ care not only for one another but also for the people outside the Christian community. In this passage, the apostle Peter clearly stated that we have a responsibility to care. To whom did Peter specifically address his call to care (v. 1a)? Discuss why change must come from leaders at the top.
3. Why is the testimony of a leader so important? Are leaders in the church the only ones who should model the life of a Christian? Do you think Peter’s exhortation includes you, a simple church member? Discuss.
4. Peter is an elder of the church who emulated Christ’s servant-leadership and lived out his instructions to others. In our passage, he teaches three principles on how you can care for others. First is that you need to be willing, which is the biblical core of caring. What instruction did he give the elders (v. 2a)? What does “shepherding” mean? Is it enough to tend or feed the sheep? How can a leader care for the entire being of a person under his/her care, whether at home, in church, or at work/school? Do you serve others willingly and not by force? How does the way you care make a difference in someone else’s life?
5. The second principle of genuine, biblical caring is that you need to have a pure motive (v. 2b). Caring for others means not expecting anything in return, allowing them to see Christ in you. It means sharing the gospel with someone who does not know Christ, not for church gain but simply for that person’s salvation. When you pray for a loved one who is sick,

do you do it because you honestly care and genuinely trust God with his/her welfare, or do you do it only because it’s the most convenient way to show you care? Share other examples that Christians tend to do to show care for others, but with other motives in mind. How can you care with a pure motive?

6. Thirdly, biblical caring must be modeled personally (v. 3). You cannot command someone to care. As a follower of Christ you need to exemplify it. People who look up to you as a leader will copy you whether your action is right or wrong. How did Peter describe to church leaders how NOT to lead? How should they lead instead (v. 3)? Discuss how people in your circle of influence (your children, siblings, co-workers, classmates, etc.) are affected by your actions. How can you be a better example to your friends, family members, co-workers/classmates?
7. Peter encouraged the leaders to keep on caring because there will be a reward that is beyond their expectation. What reward were they to receive when the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, appears? Don’t you think it’s the best motivation for selfless service?

Walk

Everyone is a leader on a certain degree. Whatever your part, your leadership should be in line with the way you care. Does make a difference in others’ lives because you willingly serve them? Do you care with pure motive? Do you model it in your life? When you lead, ask yourself if this is the way Jesus would lead.

Worship & Prayer

Father, oftentimes when I study Your Word, I learn things about myself that I don’t want to know. I learn that sometimes I’m more of a “leader” than a servant, unwilling to put others first before my own comfort. I learn that I show care for other people so they’d think I’m a caring person, not because I actually care. I learn that I expect other people to care for me, but I don’t do so first. Father, when I look through the lenses of Your Word, I don’t like what I see in my heart and in my life. But search me, God, and know that I want to change. I want to model the care that Jesus showed me to my family and friends, not because of anything else, but simply because Jesus cared enough to die for them, too. Cleanse my heart from selfishness. Teach me and allow me to serve others. In Christ name I pray. Amen.