

FIRST PETER

PART 130

“INDEPENDENT OR DEPENDENT?”

Presented by
Pastor Ron Schafer
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For many years I have had the privilege of shepherding the flock of God and enjoying the benefits of being a part of the family of God. The grace and mercy of our loving Savior has been very real in my life as I have learned to trust God's Holy Word.

However, I have also come to the conclusion that life is very difficult. Even though there are many mountain top experiences and times of great joy, there are many difficult days and times of extreme struggle. As one who knows Jesus Christ personally, the daily war with our three enemies is painful and exhausting at times. As my physical body grows older, some days the promise of a “resurrected glorified” body one day is continually on my mind.

In spite of all of this, we must not be discouraged! God's promises are real and powerful. We must trust His loving care of our lives.

THREE LIFE CHANGING WORDS

I PETER 5:5-7

SUBMIT

- To submit = to **place** yourself under the **authority** of someone else.
- It also means to be available to **follow** and **obey**.
- This word comes from a **military** term “to rank under.”
- In this context, we are to be in submission to the Elders of the church as they are in submission to God’s **Word**.
- Remember ... they (the Elders) must give an **account** one day for the way you respond to their example and instruction (Hebrews 13:17).

HUMBLE

- To be humble = to bow low or lowliness of **mind**.
- Here it refers to the **mindset** of a believer who is evaluating their own life in the **light** of who God is and does.
- As believers, we are to be continually **evaluating** our life and attitude by the standards of Holy Scripture, not by our own standards.
- When we acknowledge God's sovereign **control** of our lives, He will "pick us up" at the most opportune time to benefit our **confidence** in Him.

CASTING

- To cast = to **throw** something on someone else.
- We are to take our worries and fears and throw them on the "**shoulders**" of our loving God.
- By the way, our great God can **probably** lift more weight than we can.
- He wants to carry our burden because He is more **concerned** about our personal life than anyone else in the **universe**.
- However, we will only cast our burdens on Him when we fully **trust** Him.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. If you profess to know Jesus Christ personally, do you really have a submissive **attitude** toward Him?
2. Are you willing to **honestly** evaluate your own life and respond to God's Word?
3. Do you **trust** the living God enough to let Him carry your own burdens?