

Small Group Interaction Questions:

**MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits**  
**“A Noble Task” 6/14/09**  
**1 Peter 5:1-5**

Dear Friends,

At first glance the passage we study today may look like specialized instruction to a very limited group of people in the church: Elders. However, Peter wrote this to the whole church, both leaders and followers. Leaders in the church need to lead from an entirely different set of assumptions than those in the commercial or military world. This is an appeal to servant leaders, and addresses their deepest motivations. Elders are to serve the living Lord by nurturing and caring for the real, locatable, in-the-flesh church. The members of the Body of Christ need to be able to recognize true spiritual leadership as well. It is the church which identifies and appoints its own elders. Therefore, this passage is a challenge to every concerned Christian who wants the living church to thrive.

Pastor Roger

- ① **Read 1 Peter 5:1-5.** In verses 2-4 Peter points to the core motivations of an Elder. What are they? How would these core motivations be discovered?
- ② It is one thing to know the positive profile of a spiritual Elder. The healthy Christian also needs to be able to recognize weak, unhealthy, and misdirected leadership, and avoid or correct it. **Read Ezekiel 34:1-6** and perhaps share from your own painful experience the impact of ineffective or self-centered leadership and its impact on you.
- ③ Can you describe an example of a spiritual leader or pastor who genuinely “shepherded” you at a critical time in your life? What was the balance of grace and truth?
- ④ It is not wrong or selfish to aspire to spiritual leadership. **1 Timothy 3:1-7** is the lifestyle profile to look for. What quality listed here strikes you as a challenge to your own spiritual maturity and development? Do you think all mature believers, male and female, young and old, should aspire to this profile?
- ⑤ Pray for Berean’s Elders: David Linger, Craig Eiter, Tod Jelinski, Jake Chaya, Dan Colgan, Jon Krall, Walter Rohrbach, Roger Thompson.