



ABUSE OF POWER



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¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them

1 PETER 5:1-3

—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1 PETER 5:1-3

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute
power corrupts absolutely”

– LORD ACTON –

We must grow into leaders who
possess self-control and with
high accountability.

People have been deeply hurt,
families have been broken,
ministries have been destroyed
and all the while Satan rejoices.

² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them.

1 PETER 5:2a

[Jesus] is the head of the body,
the church.

COLOSSIANS 1:18

**FREE, NOT
FORCED**

Not because you must, but because
you are willing.

1 PETER 5:2a

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

The abuse of power starts when
we stop serving God and start
serving ourselves.

The background is a dark, moody scene. It features a brick wall that occupies the upper two-thirds of the frame. The bricks are dark and textured. At the bottom of the frame, there is a bright, circular light source on the floor, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the lower part of the wall and the floor itself. The overall atmosphere is somber and dramatic.

Jesus never abused His power!

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come
to be served, but to serve.

MARK 10:45

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under
God's mighty hand, that he may lift
you up in due time.

1 PETER 5:6

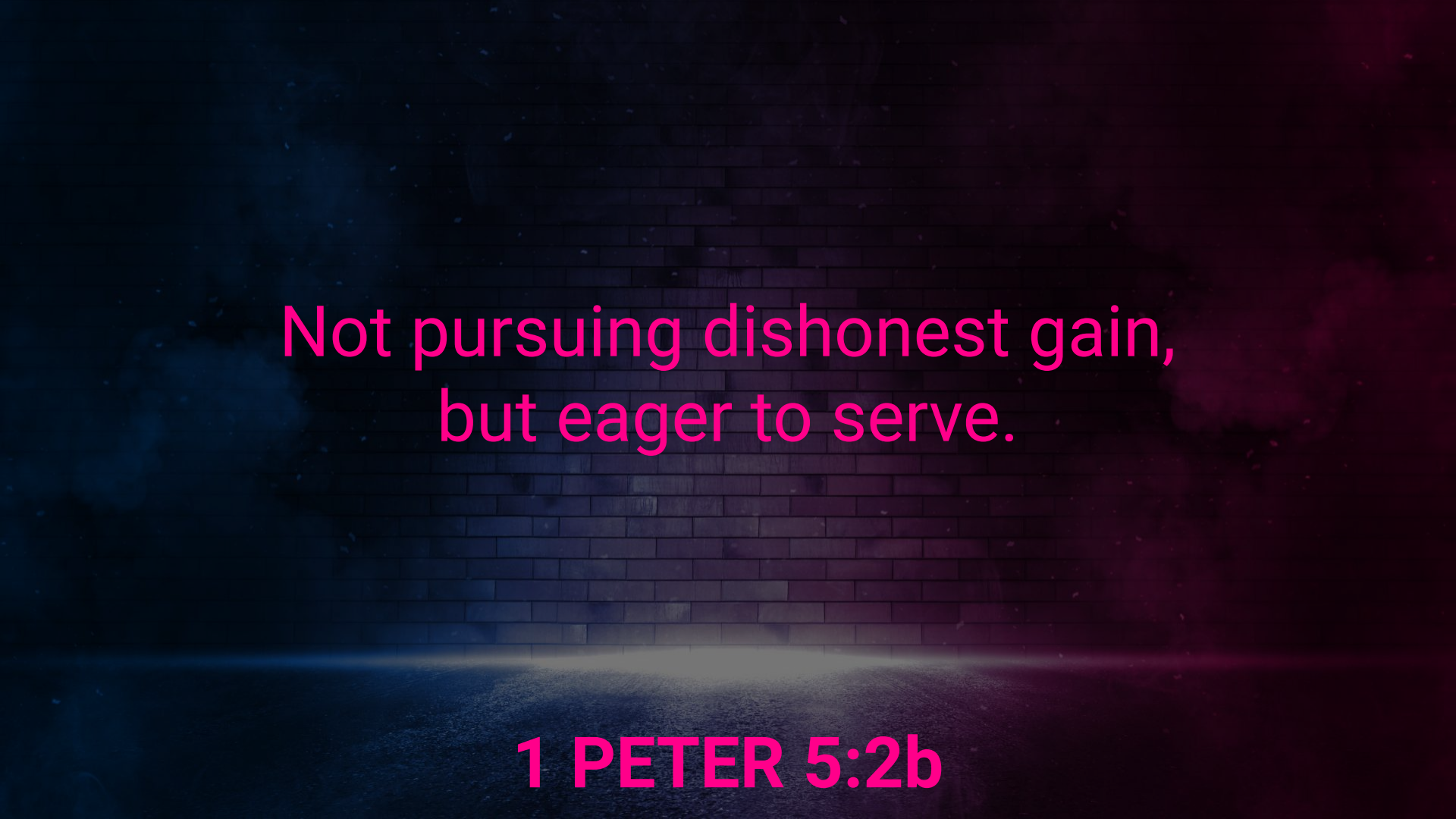
The background of the image is a dark, moody scene. It features a brick wall that occupies the upper two-thirds of the frame. The bricks are dark and textured, with some lighter patches. Below the wall is a dark, reflective surface, possibly a pool of water or a polished floor, which shows a faint reflection of the wall and the text. The overall lighting is low, with a subtle glow emanating from the bottom center, creating a sense of depth and mystery.

Humility will grow a ministry.
Pride will crush a ministry.

A poor view of people leads to
the wrong treatment of people.

It is important for spiritual
leaders to minister out of
right motivations.

GIVE, NOT GET

The background is a dark, atmospheric scene. In the center, there is a brick wall that appears to be made of dark, rectangular stones or bricks. The wall is illuminated from below, creating a bright, glowing horizon line that casts a soft light across the bottom of the image. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of blue, purple, and black, accented by the bright light at the bottom.

Not pursuing dishonest gain,
but eager to serve.

1 PETER 5:2b

Whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

1 CORINTHIANS 9:11

The Lord has commanded that those
who preach the gospel should receive
their living from the gospel.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:14

“Dishonest gain” is sourced
in greed.



Not a lover of money.

1 TIMOTHY 3:3

Spiritual leaders need to be
faithful and wise managers
of God's household.

From the one who has been entrusted
with much, much more will be asked.

LUKE 12:49

**BESIDE, NOT
OVER**

³ Not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1 PETER 5:3

Jesus is Lord over all! If we lord
over anyone, we are usurping
His authority.

Since all power and authority
belong to God, we can only be
delegated stewardship over
what He lords.

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you.”

MATTHEW 20:25-26

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

Treat younger men as brothers,
² older women as mothers, and younger
women as sisters, with absolute purity.

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-2

We need to recover “absolute
purity” in the church.

Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?
³ **You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock.**

EZEKIEL 34:2-4

⁴ You have not strengthened the weak or
healed the sick or bound up the injured.
You have not brought back the strays or
searched for the lost. **You have ruled
them harshly and brutally.**

EZEKIEL 34:2-4

¹⁰ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves.

EZEKIEL 34:10

God appoints spiritual leaders
and God disposes spiritual
leaders.

**CORRECT
PUBLICLY**

²⁰ But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.

1 TIMOTHY 5:20

“The leader’s sin affects the
whole congregation.”

– PHILIP H. TOWNER –

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

HEBREWS 12:11

**CONFIRM
CAUTIOUSLY**

²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

1 TIMOTHY 5:22

The church is cautioned to be wise and not hasty in the selection of a pastor. A poor choice can lead to an abuse of power with long-lasting effects.

Some abuses of power
are criminal offences.
For congregants to share in
these sins or conceal these
sins is to become culpable.

**INVESTIGATE
THOROUGHLY**

²⁴ The sins of some are obvious,
reaching the place of judgment
ahead of them; the sins of others
trail behind them.

1 TIMOTHY 5:24

¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and
a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

MATTHEW 7:18

If there is evidence of one
abuse of power, there could
be evidence of multiple abuses
of power.

SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) FREE, NOT FORCED**
- 2) GIVE, NOT GET**
- 3) BESIDE, NOT OVER**

