# 7.1. Life-Preserving Shepherds

God’s Kingdom Family is marked by a deep sacrificial love. So, the Father gives His precious Son for your salvation (Jn. 3:16) and the Son lays down His life for you, as your “good shepherd” (Jn. 10:11). God’s Kingdom Family is called the “flock of God” (1 Pet. 5:2a), for the good shepherd gathers his people together in fellowship to share His good life together in safety. The good shepherd also raises up some in this flock to share His sacrificial love for his people. To these, he calls to join him as shepherds of his precious flock.

After His resurrection, our Lord Jesus asked Simon Peter to prove his love, saying to him: “Feed my Lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” and “Feed my sheep” (Jn. 21:15-17). Like Simon, will you join the ranks of shepherds who have joined our Lord and Chief Shepherd to care for His precious flock (1 Pet. 5:4)?

First, take on **Family Responsibility** for the Flock as an “**Elder**”:

When Jesus told Peter to “Feed my Lambs” (Jn. 12:15), he called him to care for his “lambs,” the younger members of the flock who were especially vulnerable. For, in the flock of the Lord’s fellowship, those who are more mature take responsibility as the family’s “Elders” (1 Pet. 5:1). So, Peter calls later generations of shepherds rise up as family elders, saying: “So, I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed…” (1 Pet. 5:1a).

* Witness
* Watchful Care:

Second, Faithfully Care for the Flock as a Shepherd:

* Feed (Jer. 3:15)
* Free

Finally, reveal the Fullness of the Father by Serving Humbly: