

Pastoral Care 1
THE IMPORTANCE OF PASTORAL CARE
Resource Ministries

Scripture Background: Psalm 23; John 10; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 5:1-4

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. 6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23:1-6 NLT)

1 "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! 2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. 5 They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." 6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, 7 so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. 9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. 10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. 17 "The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded." (John 10:1-18 NLT)

15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. 16 Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. 17 A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17 NLT)

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT)

1 And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: 2 Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. 4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. (1 Peter 5:1-4 NLT)

INTRODUCTION: Pastoral Care - What is it? What should we expect?

Origins of the concept: The Shepherd (Pastor) was one who cared for the flock, his master's sheep. He was a servant and seldom the owner of the sheep.

The word Pastor simply means "Shepherd: one who cares for sheep". It is a word from rural life that has found its way into the language of the church. To understand Pastoral Care, we need to understand the origins of the concept in language and in life.

- Psalm 23:1-6 David "The Lord is my Shepherd."
- Matthew 18:12-13 Jesus "A shepherd and a lost sheep."
- John 10:1-10 Jesus Himself is the Good Shepherd.
- John 21:15 Jesus tells Peter, "Feed my lambs."
- 1 Peter 5:4 Peter calls Jesus the Chief Shepherd
- Ephesians 4:11-12 Paul One of the ministry gifts Christ gives to the church is "pastor or shepherd".
- 1 Peter 5:1-4 Peter admonishes the spiritual leaders of the church to "be shepherds of God's flock..".

YAHWEH - Shepherd of Israel (Psalms, Prophets)

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob: Shepherds
- Moses: Shepherd
- David: Shepherd
- Jesus: The Good Shepherd (John 10)
- Jesus: The Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5)

- Elders: Under-shepherds (1 Peter 5)

Ezekiel - True and False Shepherds (Ezekiel 34)

- Strengthen the weak
- Heal the sick
- Bind up the injured
- Bring back the strays
- **Search for the lost**

David - The Lord my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

- Lead
- Feed
- Protect
- Discipline
- Comfort

The shepherd lived with the sheep.

- The shepherd put his life at risk for the sheep.
- The shepherd endured hardship for the sheep.
- The shepherd was on duty 24 hours per day.

Pastoral Care in the early church.

- Apostles taught, prayed, healed, administered charity.
- Jesus commissioned Peter in John 21:15-17 "Feed My Lambs"
- Peter challenges church leaders in 1 Peter 5:1-3 Be Shepherds of God's Flock.
- In the NT always Elders, Shepherds (Plural). A team.

Five-fold Ministry. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers. Equipping for all believers. (For works of service) Ephesians 4:11-16

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (Ephesians 4:11-16 NLT)

Results: Body healthy, maturity attained, needs met, God glorified.

Let's look at the task of pastoral leadership in today's local church and try to understand the distinction between Pastoral Care and Pastoral Leadership.

The task of pastoral leadership is a complex task that involves many elements. Some of these responsibilities are:

- Preaching and teaching
- Planning and goal setting
- Administration
- Problem solving
- Counseling
- Soul-winning and Evangelism
- Follow-up of converts and inquirers
- Discipling believers
- Training other leaders and workers
- Spiritual ministry
- Fund raising
- Visiting the sick
- Community involvement
- Discipline of flock
- Emergencies in the church
- Serving the flock in natural areas
- Janitor and maintenance
- Denominational or other extra-local responsibilities and activities
- Own family's needs

There is conflict between the multitude of tasks

- Time conflict; visiting the sick vs sermon preparation. As well as job and own family demands.
- Desire conflict; counseling vs administration.
- Skill or gift conflict; preaching vs planning and goal setting.

Defining the scope of Pastoral Leadership

Pastor-Shepherd (Lit) feeder. (*Comforting the Afflicted*)

The pastoral role is to feed the sheep; to be aware of needs and conditions and insure that they receive nourishment. (I Peter 5:1-3)

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow-elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you

are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3)

The pastoral role is to mature the sheep; the needs vary with condition and level of maturity. (new converts / mature saints) Matthew 24:45-46; Hebrews 5:12-14

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns." (Matthew 24:45-46)

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! (Hebrews 5:12)

The pastoral role is to meet the needs of the sheep: visit the sick, comfort the bereaved, counsel the confused, encourage the discouraged, teach the ignorant.

The pastoral role is to protect the sheep from danger and harm. Protect from "wolves and false teachers"; from false doctrine and practices. (Acts 20:28-30)

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:28-30)

The pastoral role is to discipline the sheep; to instruct, admonish, correct and rebuke. (II Timothy 4:1-2) Hebrews 13:17 "...must give account..."

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

The Leadership Role: A leader is one who goes before, establishing purpose and direction. (*Afflicting the comfortable*)

The leadership role involves setting an example for others to follow. (I Peter 5:3; all areas of life; Ezra 7:10; principle of practice)

..not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:3)

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. (Ezra 7:10)

The leadership role involves vision for the purpose of God in the local church. (Proverbs 29:18)

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law. (Proverbs 29:18)

Example: Moses building the tabernacle; Nehemiah rebuilding the wall.

The leadership role involves imparting vision, purpose and motivation to the people. Challenging them to move out of their individual and collective "Comfort Zone."

The leadership role involves planning and goal-setting. (Proverbs 14:22, Proverbs 15:22, Proverbs 16:3, Luke 14:28-33)

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. (Proverbs 15:22)

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. (Proverbs 16:3)

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' (Luke 14:28-30)

The leadership role involves training other leaders. (2 Timothy 2:2, Jesus and His disciples)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

The leadership role involves building a leadership team. The task of Pastoral Leadership is too great and too complex for any one person, no matter how gifted and energetic. God's plan for the church is team ministry. One or one woman leadership is self-limiting and self-destroying.

Requirements of the complex task of Pastoral Leadership

Pastoral requirements

- Ability to preach
- Ability to teach
- Genuine love for people
- Sensitivity to the needs and feelings of people
- Willingness to lay down your life
- Ability to firmly, lovingly discipline

Leadership requirements

- Vision and sense of divine purpose
- Consistently seeking the will and timing of God
- Setting an example of hard work and achievement
- Ability to plan and set goals
- Ability to motivate people to give and to serve
- Openness to new ideas, concepts, and methods
- Ability to recognize, develop, release people
- Willingness to delegate

Scriptural and practical steps to developing effective Pastoral Leadership and Pastoral Care in the church.

Strong leadership is essential. Be sure of your call. Are you a leader or a follower? (Acts 13:2, Romans 1:1, I Corinthians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:1)

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God (Romans 1:1)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, (1 Corinthians 1:1)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia: (2 Corinthians 1:1)

Understand the five-fold ministry principle. Equipping people for service. (Ephesians 4:11-16, especially v. 11-12)

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Determine to build a team or be part of a team. Moses / Aaron / Hur; David's mighty men; Jesus / the three / the twelve; Paul and his company

Spend more time and effort on developing those that labor with you and less time on the details. (Acts 6:1-4; II Timothy 2:2)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

The greatest achievement in leadership is not building a building, establishing ministries, or building an organization. The greatest achievement in leadership is building people...developing people to their highest potential in the will and purpose of God for their lives.

Hebrews 13:17 "....must give an account...."

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow-elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:1-4)