
Shepherding

June 26, 2022

The need for shepherds

Mark 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Matt. 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Harassed-

Helpless-

Call for leader/shepherds

*Acts 6:3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. **We will turn this responsibility over to them** ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." ⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*

Characteristics of a shepherd

Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

- a. Character.
- b. Home life: relationships and responsibilities.
- c. A man's lifestyle.
- d. His commitment to the bible and being able to teach it

Charge to be shepherds

*1 Peter 5:1 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.*

Challenge to the church

1 Peter 5:5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Heb. 13:17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Summary:

- a. Shepherding/eldering is largely by example in character, relationships, and responsibilities.
- b. Shepherding is mostly done relationally.
- c. Biblical teaching is an important function.
- d. We are to submit (within scriptural limits) to our elders.
- e. Everyone is to have an attitude of humility toward one another.

1 Pet. 2:25 For "you were like sheep going astray," a but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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