

WHAT IS A PASTOR TO BE AND DO?

3 BIBLICAL PASTORAL PRIORITIES

I Peter 5:1-4 (*see also I Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9*) —

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partner of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by constraint but willing, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief shepherd appears you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

3. AN EXEMPLARY ELDER – Discerning (wise); not a novice (new believer); not prideful (*I Pet. 5:1, 3b; I Tim. 4:12-16; Acts 20:17-27*)

I Timothy 4:12-16 —

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine [teaching]. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2. A FAITHFUL SHEPHERD – Caring (compassionate), not a hireling, nor a flock-beater (*Acts 20:28-35; I Pet. 5:2a; I Cor. 4:1, 2; Jn. 21:15-19; Matt. 28:16-20; Eph. 4:11-16; II Tim. 2:24-26*)

II Timothy 2:24-26 —

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

3. SERVING BISHOP – Leading (overseer), not a dictator, nor neglectful (of responsibilities) (*I Pet. 5:2b-3a; Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:7, 17; Matt. 20:24-28; Col. 1:28, 29; Ps. 23*)

Matthew 20:24-28 —

And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that rules of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be saved, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can and should I apply to my life what I now understand to be true?

Is there a truth that I am already trusting and/or practicing that reminds me to thank the Lord for His past and present help in doing so?

Is there a promise that I can and should trust?

Is there an example that I can and should or should not imitate?

Is there a command that I should or should not obey?

Is there a sin that I should confess, forsake, and replace? What should I replace it with? How will I do so?

What steps of personal application should and will I take to please God more?

REVIEW QUESTIONS (ENCORE)

1. What are the three New Testament titles/descriptions of pastors and their position and responsibilities? What do you think the Bible teaches to be at least one of the main emphases of each?
 - a) “*Elder*” – “exhorter; discerning; experienced; not a novice” [audience answers]; his character demonstrates that he is a mature, wise, loving example of a learning and growing Christian
 - b) “*Shepherd*” (Pastor) – “caring; compassionate (but firm); not a flock-beater (legalistic)” [audience answers]; his compassionate love for people is consistently seen in his seeking to connect God’s provisions to peoples’ needs so that they understand, accept, and receive all of the protection, guidance, and every other provision made available by God
 - c) “*Bishop*” (Overseer) – his concern for being God’s primary human servant-leader to help the church fulfill its God-given purposes on his “watch” is always evident
2. What are some especially important passages of Scripture not considered in detail in our study?

- a) “Eph. 4:11-16” [audience answer]; I & II Timothy, esp. I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus, esp. 1:5-9; Acts 20:17-38; John 10, etc.
3. What can help us understand these passages accurately?
- a) “text in context; prayer; patience; cross-references” [audience answers]; personal Bible study methods—prayer, context, comparison, word studies, commentaries, etc.
4. How can we know if a specific potential pastoral candidate meets the biblical qualifications, can and will fulfill the biblical responsibilities [of a pastor], and fits the priorities of potential candidates suggested in our earlier presentation?
- a) “track record; Can he lead in growing and equipping for ministry?; vision; changing—moving forward rather than being stationary” [audience answers]; Pulpit Committee worship principles regarding resumes, references and interviews, and observations by yourself, your congregation, and others; etc.

PRIORITIES FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATE EVALUATIONS

Is he in harmony with our church’s biblical understanding of Christian doctrine and practice?

Does he meet the biblical qualifications for a pastor?

Is there consistent evidence that he can do, is doing, and will do what a biblical pastor should?

Does he have the ability, commitment, and motivation to do what a biblical, Fundamental Baptist pastor should do according to the Scripture, our church’s doctrinal statement, constitution, and philosophy of ministry?

Does he have any views of doctrine or practice that might be considered unusual?

Is there good, reliable evidence that he will fit into our church family and community well?

Do we have enough confidence in him to commit to following his leadership and to encourage others in our church and [surrounding area] to do so likewise?