

Partnering & Flowing with your Pastor

Our Shepherd Lord

- In both the Old and New testaments, God refers to Himself as the Shepherd of His people

Ps 28:9, “Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever”

Isaiah 40:11, “He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”

- **Please Read: Hebrews 13:20-21**
- Jesus Christ is first and foremost the Shepherd of the flock of God- which is His body
- **1 Peter 2:25**, refers to Jesus as the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls
- **1 Peter 5:4** speaks of Jesus as the Chief Shepherd
- The word pastor in the Greek actually means shepherd
 - o One who tends a flock, to graze and pasture it- a herdsman or caretaker
 - o Overseer- to look diligently after and be acutely aware of
 - o Elder- speaks of qualifications of being seasoned and experienced- not a novice
- The ministry of the pastor is very close to the heart of God
- **Please Read: Psalms 23**
 - o vs 1- when we confess Jesus as our Lord, He becomes our Great Shepherd
 - o vs 2- amp – “*He makes me lie down in [fresh, tender] green pastures*”
 - o vs 4 AMP- “*Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort me*”

The Rod of God’s Word

- Shepherds have used the rod/club for defense and protection for centuries
 - o It’s also used for correcting sheep of bad habits like wandering away
- **Proverbs 22:15**, “*Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline...*”
- God uses the Rod of His Word to correct and train us and so do pastors in love

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Jesus holds your local pastor accountable for this flock of believers at church
- **Please Read: 1 Peter 5:1-6**
- It’s a tremendous responsibility to care for the spiritual welfare of others

1 Timothy 4:16, “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

- As Christians how can we more effectively flow and partner with our pastor?

Hebrews 13:17, “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.”

- For ancient times, Shepherds would make the sheep to regularly “pass under the rod”

Ezekiel 20:37 AMP, “And I will cause you to pass under the rod [as the shepherd does his sheep when he counts them, and I will count you as Mine and I will constrain you] and bring you into the covenant to which you are permanently bound.”

- Not only does the Shepherd need to count his/her sheep on a regular basis- none missing
- It’s also a time to closely examine the sheep to look for problems that afflict them
- Think of coming to church and being involved in church events as passing under the rod
 - o If we are sporadic in attendance, it’s makes it harder for pastor to do his job
 - o Remember our pastor is responsible to Jesus for the health/welfare of His sheep
- **Please Read: Acts 20:17-32**

Hebrews 10:25, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

The pastor is continually changing spiritual diapers, wiping our spiritual noses, bandaging up our hurts, and helping us through our habits and hang-ups. So when pastor corrects/admonishes us that is his duty like a spiritual father- **Please Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:10-12.**

Let’s now look at the nature of sheep – 12 characteristics

- Sheep are foolish – not the smartest – put themselves in peril for one bite of green grass
- Sheep are slow to learn- experience a painful event and do it again the next day
- Sheep are clumsy, awkward, dirty and smelly – not the most attractive animals
- Sheep are demanding, an insatiable desire for grass, aggressively demanding more food
- Sheep are stubborn- they get it in their head that, nope I like it right here- ain’t moving
- Sheep are strong- you can get flattened by a stampede of sheep – sheep bites
- Sheep are straying and getting lost- oblivious of their surroundings and danger
- Sheep are unpredictable- like squirrels, darting back in forth spontaneously
- Sheep are copycats- they follow the crowd, when one starts running they all begin to run
- Sheep are restless- for sheep to lie down they need freedom from fear, hunger, pests etc.
- Sheep are dependent- totally dependent on the shepherd, can’t function on its own
- Sheep are the same everywhere- all over the world they share these same traits

The Staff to lead us

- **Please Read: Acts 6:1-4**
- One of our pastor's greatest responsibilities is to get vision and direction from Jesus
- To hear from and be led by the Holy Spirit so he/she can be a godly leader for us to follow
- The staff is for leading, guiding and directing – to show the right way to go
 - o For example: To the best feeding grounds and best drinking water
- **Please Read: John 21:14-17**
- **Please Read: Exodus 4:1-3**
- The staff was used as an instrument for all the miracles in Egypt- dividing of the Red Sea
- **Exodus 4:17**, *“But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”*
- The staff or the crook more than anything identifies a function of a shepherd
 - o It represents the care and management of the sheep- not used for any other animal
- The Holy Spirit works through the pastor to guide and direct the people of God
- During the long weary watches with his sheep, he leans on it for support and strength

There are three areas of sheep management in which the staff plays a most significant role. The first of these lies in drawing sheep together into an intimate relationship. The shepherd will use his staff to gently lift a newborn lamb and bring it to its mother if they become parted. He does this because he does not wish to have the ewe reject her offspring if it bears the odor of his hands upon it. ...the staff is used by the shepherd to reach out and catch individual sheep, young or old, and draw them close to himself for close examination. The staff is very useful this way for the shy and timid sheep normally tend to keep at a distance from the shepherd. The staff is also used for guiding sheep. Uses his staff to guide his sheep gently into a new path or through some gate or along dangerous, difficult routes. The tip of the long slender stick is laid gently against the animal's side and the pressure applied guides the sheep in the way the shepherd wants it to go. Thus the sheep is reassured of its proper path. Another common occurrence was to find sheep stuck fast in labyrinths of wild roses or brambles where they had pushed in to find a few stray mouthfuls of green grass. Soon the thorns were so hooked in their wool they could not possibly pull free, tug as they might. Only the use of the staff could free them from their entanglement.

The key instruments of the pastor is the Staff of the Holy Spirit to lead us and the Rod of the God's Word to protect us from wolves and correct us when we go astray.

[Sheep without a Shepherd is a sad state of affairs](#)

Zechariah 10:2, “Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.”

Matthew 9:36

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

- We need to regularly pray for our pastor, if he falls it's not good for the rest of us
- Satan knows if he can cause the pastor to fall, he can scatter the whole congregation
- Sheep without a shepherd become scattered and easy food for predators

Matthew 26:31, "Then Jesus told them, 'This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

Jeremiah 23:4, "I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD."

Numbers 27:15-17 when Moses was succeeded by Joshua

Moses said to the Lord, "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

- Bottom line, God wants His people cared for and pastors are the primary conduit

Being a Pastor can be overwhelming at times

- It seems that shepherding was great training for leaders
 - o Moses was a shepherd for 40 years before he was appointed to lead Israel
 - o As you know David started out as a shepherd of sheep before leading people
- **Please Read: Numbers 11:13-17**

When Jethro visited Moses in Exodus 18 and saw Moses serving the people from morning until evening, he admonished Moses to delegate and share the responsibility with others.

Exodus 18:22-23

"Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

- Pastor's leadership style is a team oriented approach of getting everyone involved
- If each one will just do their part: serving, praying and giving- the job gets done
- Many hands make light work and is a great way to partner and flow with our pastor

Note: judging, criticizing, and slandering our pastor is a great way to get in trouble with the Chief Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ! 1 Peter 5:1-5