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TBC – Arlington, Texas
August 5, 2020

The Duties of A Pastor

D. THE DUTIES OF THE PASTOR:

This is a three-fold responsibility. A pastor is to:

1. LEAD — the work of an ELDER.

Pastors are to rule and exercise their God-given authority — see:

I Thessalonians 5:12–13, 12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; **13** And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

I Timothy 3:4,5; 5:17 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; **5** (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **I Timothy 5:17 17** Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Hebrews 13:7,17,24 7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. **17** Obey them that have the

rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. **24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.**

There are two ways in which a pastor should lead:

a. By Example.

“Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being **ENSAMPLES to the flock**” — I Peter 5:3b.

Wise pastors will seek to follow the Chief Shepherd. God’s people will gladly follow a man they can see is following Christ.

b. By Taking the Oversight.

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, **TAKING THE OVERSIGHT THEREOF**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind” — I Peter 5:2.

A pastor must exercise his leadership. No pastor can lead just because he is a pastor — he must take charge. Strong leadership results in a strong church; whereas weak-kneed, timid, vacillating pastors can only produce a weak church.

Pastors must not be dictators — I Peter 5:3a; Matthew 20:26-28. Their authority is delegated authority, not absolute authority. Nevertheless, they need to provide clear leadership (direction) for every ministry of the church and in every decision facing a church.

2. FEED — the work of a SHEPHERD.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to FEED THE CHURCH OF GOD, which he hath purchased with his own blood” — Acts 20:28.

The Lord has commissioned the pastor to:

a. Give himself to the ministry of the Word — I Timothy 4:15,16.

Acts 6:4 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry [**service**] of the word.

b. Study the Word —

II Timothy 2:15. 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

c. Feed the church — John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2a

Acts 20:28 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

d. Hold fast the faithful Word —

Titus 1:9. 9 Holding fast [**firmly, cling to**] the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

e. Preach the Word —

II Timothy 4:2. 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

f. Speak the Word of God —

Hebrews 13:7. 7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

g. Labor in Word and Doctrine —

I Timothy 5:17. 17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

h. Admonish, remind, exhort, & rebuke — I Thessalonians 5:12; I Timothy 4:6; Titus 2:15 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

i. Train other preachers in the Word —

II Timothy 2:2. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

j. Live out the Word of God in his life —

Titus 2:7. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

k. Do the work of an evangelist — II Timothy 4:5.

A pastor is also referred to as a “teacher” in Ephesians 4:11. He is to be “apt to teach” — **I Timothy 3:2.** 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3. HEED — the work of a BISHOP.

(Heed: to actively consider)

Pastors are the “protective umbrella” under which a church is kept safe from danger. A pastor needs to be vigilant in watching out for Satan’s attacks upon individual members, internal strife within the church, and false teachers.

He must:

a. Take heed of himself — Acts 20:28.

b. Take heed of the whole church —

Acts 20:28. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

c. Watch for religious wolves —

Acts 20:29. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

d. Watch for schismatics and heretics —

Acts 20:30. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

e. Watch for the souls of his people —

Hebrews 13:17. 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

f. Stop the mouths of the unruly and vain talkers —

Titus 1:10,11. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: **11** Whose mouths must be

stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

g. Pray for and visit the sick —

James 5:14, 15. 14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.