

THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

APOSTLE | PROPHET | TEACHER
PASTOR | EVANGELIST

Sunday Nights | The Rock Café
3rd September - 1st October
5pm-7pm



Five Fold - Pastor

Over this year we have been looking at the fivefold ministry gifts and how God gave them to build and equip His church. So far we have covered the Apostle, Prophet and the Teacher. Today we are focusing on the Pastor.

The Pastor (Shepherds) also plays a really important part in His building plan, however out of all the fivefold gifts, the pastor has probably been _____ more than the others. Man has an incredible ability to take something that God has so beautifully crafted and designed and try to "_____".

Expectations of a Pastor

What are some of the traditional views of what a Pastor should be like?

Let's take a look at some of these:

1. Pastors/shepherds are _____ and look after a flock
 - a. From the pictures of lonely figures out with the sheep
 - b. They _____ and _____
 - c. Chase after the _____ sheep
 - d. _____ for the sick and the lost
 - e. Counsel
 - f. Keep the peace
 - g. Mop up the junk
 - h. _____ the church
 - i. Church growth/flock
 - j. After all they are _____ to do it!

2. Pastors are appointed to _____:
 - a. Some are elected or voted in (democracy)
 - b. _____, _____ and hierarchy are very important
 - c. Collars or something external that people can see that you are a minister/man of God – it distinguishes them from an ordinary person

3. Pastors should be humble:
 - a. Fleshly understanding of what that really is – an _____ appearance of being poor and gentle and mild.
 - b. _____ and _____
 - c. They should be on the minimum wage so that they are not puffed up and become _____ (like the monks of centuries before – the vow of poverty.)
 - d. They should have one second/third hand car – nothing flash!

4. Pastors are responsible for _____ the church (a building and its function):
 - a. A one man band – first one there and last to lock up
 - b. Maintain the building and grounds
 - c. _____ all areas
 - d. After all they are paid to do it!

5. Pastors are there to meet my _____!
 - a. On call 24/7
 - b. They are there to _____ me – tickle my ears
 - c. Come when I call
 - d. To _____ us/perform keep each service with that special edge
 - e. To get people saved – after all it's their job, they are paid to do it!
 - f. To entertain our youth/provide suitable _____ for our children
 - g. To tell me what I want to hear – certainly not to challenge or offend us
 - h. _____ – must give an intellectual sermon
 - i. Warm fuzzies – the ultimate spiritual experience

We have used the term "Pastor" and branded all church leaders with it. However it was clear that not all are pastors yet they have to fit the mould that we perceive them to be. Historically the fivefold ministry gifts have been squeezed into the Pastor functioning role. This has caused unmet expectations such as the following:

Apostles can seem hard to _____ but when we try to squeeze them in the "pastor-mould box" they don't seem to fit. They carry the grace to realign and set right wrong foundations and are often rejected because of the _____ they bring.

Prophets often make terrible pastors – they are often seeing ahead of where the church currently is and are declaring the reality she is to come in to. They are often criticised for being _____ and sometimes rather _____!

Teachers are often not pastors in nature. They love to study the word and teach the people, but are not so good at the shepherding side and are often criticised for not being _____ enough!

Evangelists are focussed on the _____. They are often criticised for being uninterested in the _____ and _____ of the church.

Yet **true pastors** are also criticised because they aren't necessarily the best teachers. Too often people have expected them to function in all the gifts. We have blurred the lines and tried to create a "_____ " mentality.

This was never God's design. That is why He created the fivefold ministry to work together so that they complement each other and carry the load together; not in their own strength but in the power and grace that God has given them.

Man's way is built on _____; God's way is based on _____!

The Shepherd's responsibility

The Bible also gives a number of scriptures in relationship to shepherds and the responsibility that they carry.

There is a difference between those called by God and those who do it for a job. Jesus describes it in *John 10: 7 – 18*. The true Shepherd and the _____.

The Hireling does not care for the sheep, he flees when trouble/danger comes, and puts his life before those of the sheep.

Jeremiah 10:21

“For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the Lord...”

Jeremiah 23:1-4

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the Lord.

“Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them.....”

Jeremiah 50:6

“My people have been lost sheep, their shepherds have led them astray; they have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place.”

Ezekiel 34 talks about the irresponsible shepherds and the One True Shepherd.

The irresponsible shepherds:

- They feed _____
- Eat the fat and clothe themselves
- They have not strengthened the _____
- Nor _____ those who were sick
- Nor bound up the broken
- Nor brought back what was _____ away
- Nor sought the lost
- But with force and cruelty you have _____ them
- The sheep were _____
- The sheep became food/prey for all the beasts of the field
- Result – My sheep wandered

A true shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, a hireling runs off – it’s only a job, a position, a title until the pressure comes on.

Church building becomes a numbers game and programme orientated where entertainment is demanded. “How big can I build this and therefore be recognised as one of THE pastors who have made it!” They become driven by a _____ mentality that has to perform to the ever increasing expectations of the people. It becomes a never ending circle that ends up burning themselves or their people out. I have seen and known Pastors who have fallen apart or watched as many sheep have walked away, leaving the church because they have become disillusioned and cynical.

Shepherds must give an account for their love of the sheep but it’s not just one way – the sheep also have a responsibility to submit and obey the shepherd over them.

The Sheep/flock

Sadly there are thousands of Christians who are wary of getting involved because of the abuse they have received in the past from pastors. They have become sheep that have _____! Can you see how this

model is _____ and how _____ it is?

So do the sheep have any responsibility in all this?

So what defines sheep that are of His pen?

John 10:3 – 5

“To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear His voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings them out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

Vs 14 “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”

Jesus states it around five times in chapter 10. What point is He trying to get across to us?

Can we as sheep:

- _____ the shepherd’s voice? (He calls us by name.)
- Do we know or _____ the shepherd God has placed over us?
- _____ and _____ the shepherd?
- Goes where he goes?
- Eat the pasture or food laid before us or do we desire food from a greener pasture?
- _____ what voices speak to us especially those who would try and lead us away?

There is something incredibly beautiful when you see true shepherds laying down their lives for the sheep (**John 10:11**) and the sheep also responding in a like manner – laying their lives down as well. It’s called love! His love in us! It’s also oneness (**vs 16**).

This is how the early church operated – the world looked and saw Christ in them as they lived and demonstrated something that the world could not reproduce. God is rebuilding His Church as it was originally designed, from a place of relationship and intimacy with Him, where each part of the body is being joined and knitted together, all growing in maturity and love.

Today many churches have 10 percent of the people being involved in some way, but the early church had 100% involvement! Why do you think that is? What was the difference?

John 10:27

“My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me.”

Ezekiel 3:15

“And I will give shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

1 Peter 5:1 – 11 The shepherds/overseers of the flock.

Questions:

1. What was your understanding of what a Pastor did prior to hearing this message?
2. How has your mindset or understanding changed in regards to how God designed this role to be?
3. As a sheep, what are the responsibilities we have in regards to the shepherd(s) placed over us in this house?