

Shepherd the Flock

I Peter 5:1-4

I Peter 17

Introduction

I almost skipped this little passage because it is primarily written to pastors. However, for three reasons we are going to look at it.

1. This a verse by verse story, and it is a part of the book.
2. Christians need to understand the role of the pastor.
3. In a sense we are all pastors to each other.

(Read I Peter 5:1-4)

I. Elders

This is an office that we do not have in the Baptist Church.

We have pastors and we have deacons.

The role being described is not the role of some sort of glorified deacon. It is the role of the pastor.

How do I know this?

Peter calls himself an elder.

(Read vs 1)

Peter is a pastor.

John 21:16-17- ***Jesus asked him again, a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Take care of my sheep." Jesus asked him a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt sad because Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" So Peter said to him, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Feed my sheep.***

In Acts 5, Peter functions as the pastor of the church in Jerusalem.

The role being described is that of a shepherd. Being a shepherd is a pastor's job.

II. Shepherd

A shepherd is someone who leads a flock. There are three roles involved in shepherding:

1. Guiding
2. Caring
3. Protecting

These things are primarily done through praying and teaching.

These two things- praying and teaching- are the primary job of the pastor.

Acts 6:2-...***"It wouldn't be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor.***

This does not mean that the pastor is never to help with the care of the poor. It does mean that study, prayer, teaching and preaching are his primary responsibilities.

Two often within the modern church the pastor neglects his primary job for his secondary ones.

Studying, praying and teaching and preaching are the hardest part of the job. I know this from 40 years of ministry.

Pastor's- and church's- also have...

III. **Jesus' Orders**

Jesus was pretty specific in His orders.

When His disciples became sidetracked with worldliness- or busyness- He told them to get back to their main job of feeding his sheep.

John 21:15-17- *After they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than the other disciples do?" Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Feed my lambs." Jesus asked him again, a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Take care of my sheep." Jesus asked him a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt sad because Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" So Peter said to him, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Feed my sheep.*

Conclusion

Again, this lesson is important for all of us.

It is important to me in order to remind me of my job.

It is important to you in order to remind you of my job.

When you expect the pastor's role to be more than this, it becomes frustrating to both you and the pastor.

It pulls the pastor away from his real role- given by Jesus- of praying and studying and preaching and teaching.

Finally, it reminds us all that we need to pray for and take care of one another.

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I Peter 5:1-4
I Peter Session 17

Introduction

There are three reasons we are going to look at this section:

1. This a verse by _____ study, and it is a part of the book.
2. Christians need to understand the role of the _____.
3. In a sense we are _____ pastors to each other.

I. Elders

(John 21:16-17)

The role being described is not the role of some sort of _____ deacon. It is the role of the pastor.

Peter calls himself an _____.

_____ is also a pastor.

II. Shepherd

(Acts 6:2)

A shepherd is someone who leads a flock. There are three roles involved in shepherding:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

These things are primarily done through praying and _____.

III. Jesus' Orders

(John 21:15-17)

Jesus was pretty _____ in His orders.

Conclusion

Again, this lesson is important for all of us.

It is important to me in order to _____ me of my job.

It is important to you in _____ to remind you of my job.

When you expect the pastor's role to be more than this, it becomes _____ to both you and the pastor.

It pulls the pastor _____ from his real role- given by Jesus- of praying and studying and preaching and teaching.

Finally, it reminds us all that we need to _____ for and take care of one another.

Possible Answers: order, protecting, elder, verse, pastor, Peter, teaching, frustrating, away, specific, all, glorified, caring, remind, pray