

1 PETER 5:1-4

DUTIES OF THE PASTOR TO THE CONGREGATION



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All emphasis added are mine

1 Peter 5:1-4 *So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

- Elders [*presbuteros*] – plurality (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5), among you
- *Shepherd* [*poimainō*] – pastor (from the Latin). Noun form used in Ephesians 4:11
- *exercising oversight* [*episkopeō*] – bishop, overseer. Noun form used in 1 Timothy 3:1
- Elder, shepherd, pastor, bishop, overseer – all words describing the same office.

Shepherds

Psalms 23:1 *A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

2 Samuel 5:1-2 *Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'"*

1 Peter 5:4 *And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

- There is one chief shepherd. Pastors are really under-shepherds of the one true and perfect Shepherd – Christ.

Duties of Pastors to the Congregation

1. Know the Sheep
2. Feed the Sheep
3. Lead the Sheep
4. Protect the Sheep

1. Know the Sheep

v2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you...

Who are the sheep?

- John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

Which sheep are we to shepherd?

- Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*
- Points to importance of knowing which sheep we are to shepherd – we are called to be soul watchers who will give an account for the sheep under our care.

Whose flock is it?

- God's.

1. Know the Sheep

v2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you...

- Not a group of leaders in some far off place, or disconnected from the congregation.

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- *Pay careful attention to* – be on guard, give heed to, apply your mind to
- *all the flock* – the entire flock, each and every one of the flock

2. Feed the Sheep

v2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you...

- *John 21:15-17 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend [poimainō - shepherd] my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*
- *Jesus makes it clear that part of what it means to tend/shepherd God's flock is to feed them.*

2. Feed the Sheep

What are we to feed the sheep?

- Matthew 4:4 *But he answered, "It is written, ""Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*"
- Acts 6:4 *But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

How are we to feed the sheep?

- 1 Timothy 4:13 *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*
- *Every word* (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Acts 5:42 *And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.*

3. Lead the Sheep

v2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,...

- *exercising oversight* - to look upon, inspect, oversee, look after, care for.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

- *rule (proistēmi)*– used by Paul in qualifications for elder two chapters earlier:
- *1 Timothy 3:4-5 He must manage (proistēmi) his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage (proistēmi) his own household, how will he care for God's church?*

3. Lead the Sheep

How are the elders to shepherd and exercise oversight?

- *v2 not under compulsion...not for shameful gain...v3 not domineering over those in your charge*
- *v2 but willingly...but eagerly*
 - *1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*

3. Lead the Sheep

- v3 ...*but being examples to the flock*
 - Titus 1:5-9 *This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1 *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

4. Protect the Sheep

This duty is implied in Peter's call to shepherd and oversee, and explicitly laid out elsewhere.

- Acts 20:28-32 *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.*

What does a wolf look like and how are we to recognize them?

- Matthew 7:15-16 *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"*

Titus 1:9 *He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*

Colossians 1:28 *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*

Takeaways:

- Pray for Jesse and me that we would know, feed, lead and protect you well, to the glory of God.
- Pray for the Lord to raise up more men to serve as elders that would be passionate and gifted in these areas.
- As you see men that seem to meet the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and beginning to demonstrate servant leadership in the areas we have looked at, please come to Jesse and me and make that known.
- Next week, Lord willing we will look at the duties of you, the congregation, to us as pastors. Begin this week meditating on what you would see as your responsibilities to us in light of what we have looked at today.