

1 PETER 5:1-4

DUTIES OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE PASTORS



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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.

Duties of Pastors:

1. Know the flock
2. Feed the flock
3. Lead the flock
4. Protect the flock¹

1. BE KNOWN

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

- Members of the congregation are to be known to the pastors, and to each other.
- You have been gifted and are indispensable to this Body, and that you neglecting the gathering of the saints, or not being actively engaged when you are here means that other members are not being encouraged and built up like they could be.

Ephesians 4:11-12 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds [pastors] and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

Pastors – equip/prepare/make ready the saints for the work of ministry.

Saints – build up the body, promote Christ-likeness in each other's lives.

1. BE KNOWN

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 *We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.*

- *respect* – to have seen or perceived, hence to know.
- This does not mean simple face recognition, but that the people are to literally know their pastors well enough to have an intimate appreciation for them and to respect them because of their value.
John MacArthur
- *esteem them very highly* - consider, deem, account, esteem them “exceedingly abundantly”
- *because of their work* – undershepherds of the Chief Shepherd, soul watchers, called to know, feed, lead and protect the congregation.

2. EAT

- The congregation has a responsibility to be on time and prepared.
- Fulfilling that responsibility will impact not just your Sunday mornings, but your Saturdays as well.
- We must be going home and meditating upon the Word preached. That is the only way we will be able to fully digest and get maximum spiritual nourishment from the sermon.

2. EAT

1 Corinthians 9:13-15 *Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? 14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. 15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.*

- Paul makes it clear that “those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” – pastors should be paid. Those, like Jesse, that are set aside for preaching and teaching should have their needs fully met.
- This is not a new principle – Paul appeals to Moses and Jesus
- A pastor can forgo that right.
- Does this enter into your mind when it comes to your giving?

3. FOLLOW

Romans 13:1-2 *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

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.*

Acts 5:29 *But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.*

A true heart of obedience become evident in those times where you don't agree with those in authority.

3. FOLLOW

If pastors are to lead, who are they accountable to?

- God – this is His flock and we will one day have to give an account to Him for our stewardship.
- God's Word
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 *Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.*
- God's other undershepherds (plurality).
- The congregation.

4. PROTECT

1 Timothy 5:19-20 *Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.*

How should you handle it if you have a concern about Jesse or me, or something in the church?

- Discern whether this is a preference or Biblical mandate.
 - If it is a preference, come to discuss in humility with a heart ready to obey and submit if we disagree.
 - If it is a Biblical mandate
 - Discern what is subjective vs. objective.
 - Keep in mind that there is a big difference between rejecting mandates vs. the level of attention given to them.
- Pray
- Remember your pastors are Christians who are growing in sanctification just like you.
- Trust the Lord in Him placing us over you.
- Don't go around and discuss concerns with others. This can lead to disunity and distrust.
- Go to your pastors and share your concerns, but in a spirit of humility and in light of the things above.