

**Disclaimer:** I am not preaching this with a motive for personal gain. I am preaching this because it is truth from God's Word and it will bless your life!

### **Ephesians 4:11-12**

**11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors** and teachers;

**12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

### **Matthew 9:36**

**36** But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Everybody needs a Pastor! It is not God's will that we come into the church and then be islands unto ourselves not accountable to anyone. It is not optional, it is imperative.

I think we know that, but sometimes we don't fully know what a Pastor is. What is a Pastor's Purpose?

Let's talk about what a Pastor is **NOT**:

- A Pastor is not someone who does **all** of the ministry work.
  - Sometimes people think the Pastor and the staff do all the work and the saint's job is just to put money in the offering and pay their salary.
  - We are all called to be ministers (2 Corinthians 3:6).
  - In Acts 6, the 12 apostles appointed men "full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" to tend to and care for the widows. It wasn't just the responsibility of one man or a few men to do the work of the ministry, ministry was the responsibility of many.
- A Pastor is not just someone who preaches sermons.
  - Yes, Pastors preach. We are called to feed the flock, but that's not our only role in your life. Our ultimate role is to keep watch for your souls and engage you in ministry.
  - My role in your life is not to just preach to you every Wednesday.
  - Some of you love me as your preacher, but you've fired me as your Pastor.
  - I could approach you about something in your life and you would ignore me. It's not because you're a bad person, it's because you don't understand a Pastor's purpose.

Everybody needs a Pastor!

So what **IS** a Pastor?

In scripture, a pastor is compared to a **shepherd**. If we can understand the responsibilities of a shepherd to the sheep, we can better understand the responsibilities of a Pastor to the saints.

- The Hebrew word “ra’ah” which is translated “pastor(s)” in the book of Jeremiah, is also translated as “shepherd, herdsmen, keeper, feed” elsewhere in the Old Testament.
- The Greek word “poimen” which is translated “pastors” in Ephesians, is also translated “shepherd” elsewhere in the New Testament.
- These words show us that a pastor is a shepherd; one who tends or herds flocks, feeding, guiding and supervising them.

That is my role in this youth group. To tend to you and serve you. To herd sheep together and help grow the flock. To feed you. To guide, correct and supervise you.

We like most of those things, just sometimes not the last few.

You don’t need someone who will always tell you what you want to hear. You need someone who will confront you when you’re not doing all that well spiritually and help you back on track.

You need a Pastor!

This is not something that you hear at school. Our culture teaches us to question and push back against all forms of authority.

In Genesis, we read of how the Egyptians hated shepherds.

### **Genesis 46:34b**

**34** for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

Egypt is always a symbol of the world in the Bible. Just as the shepherd was “an abomination to the Egyptians”, so the ministry of a Pastor is to a godless world.

Our world resists the concept of having authority over you, but God desires every single person to have a Pastor. Somebody who will guide you, and correct you if necessary. A shepherd!

Everybody needs a Pastor.

All God-anointed and God-appointed Pastors are to look to Jesus Christ as their example.

He is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20), and the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). He is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1 Peter 2:25), and He is Jehovah-Ra'ah, "The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

Jesus Christ is the pattern. He is the supreme Pastor and Shepherd, and all Pastors are to follow his example.

In John 10, Jesus shows us, by example, how a good shepherd should operate.

A good shepherd:

- Has sheep that follow him for they know His voice (v.4).
- Has sheep that don't follow strangers because they don't know their voice (v.5).
- Will give his life for His sheep (v.11).
- Stays with the sheep even when the wolves come (v.12).
- Knows his sheep and they know him (v.14).
- Brings other sheep into the fold (v.16).

We often like to talk about the responsibilities of the Pastor, but sheep also have certain responsibilities!

- Sheep must recognize their need of a Shepherd who is anointed by God.
- Sheep must recognize their need of a Sheepfold (local church).
- Sheep must learn to obey the Shepherd's voice, and to flee from strange voices.
- Sheep must be willing to follow the Shepherd, as he follows the Chief Shepherd.
- Sheep must recognize that their purpose is to reproduce and it is not just the role of the shepherd to grow the flock. Sheep beget sheep.

It is important that as you mature in Christ you take on these responsibilities.

- Without a shepherd sheep will wander astray and cannot find their way home.
- Without a shepherd sheep are helpless and defenseless against their enemies.
- They need the shepherd to lead them, as they cannot lead themselves.
- They cannot risk being independent; they must stay in the flock where it is safe.

You need the flock and you need a shepherd. Without them you aren't going to make it! The shepherd is there for your good, and you need to follow him and be submitted to his leadership.

## **Romans 13:1-2**

**1** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

**2** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

God has called men and women to shepherd His flock, and when we resist them, we resist God. When we rebel against them, we rebel against God. When we aren't submitted to them, we aren't submitted to God.

You can't be right with the Master if you're not right with you're Pastor.

We can't afford to take what our Pastor says as just optional. We need to be in submission to the voice of our shepherd.

That is not to say that you can't voice concerns or opinions, but at the end of the day God has gifted your Pastors to see things that you can't always see. He has given them wisdom, sometimes beyond their intelligence, that you need to take advantage of! They speak into your life on behalf of God and that is something you can't afford to take lightly.

### **Colossians 3:23-24**

**23** And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

**24** Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

You might think that your submission to your Pastor is just submission to a man or woman, but ultimately it is submission to God.

### **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.

Submission to a Pastor is powerful. There is an anointing that rests on people who are submitted.

God's anointing always flows down. In the Old Testament, when kings and priests were anointed for God's use, they would have anointing oil poured over their heads and it would flow down. Anointing always flows downward! If you want God to anoint your life and use you, come under the leadership of your Pastor.

It's the over-under principle. God can't put you **over** something until you first come **under** the leadership of the man of God.

Submission can't be proven in times when you agree. Only when you disagree can you prove that you are submitted to authority.

Agreement is powerful, but submission is even more powerful, and you can only truly submit when you disagree.

Even if your Pastor seems to be wrong, your submission to him will still bless you and God will deal with your Pastor.

There are times in life that we get off course and confused, and it's in moments like these that we need a Pastor.

### **Isaiah 53:6a**

**6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;

From time to time, sheep tend to wander and get away from the herd, and this is when the shepherd goes and attempts to rescue them.

### **Matthew 18:12b**

**12** if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

The shepherd does what he can to try and rescue the sheep because the shepherd knows that there are wolves and thieves out there. The shepherd knows that there is a cliff just beyond the pasture, so he does what he can to correct the course of the sheep, and bring them back to the fold because that's his job and his heartbeat.

There are times that we, as saints, begin to wander. Sometimes we don't even see what we are doing to be wrong. In these times of wandering, I thank God for Pastors who come along side and try to course-correct, and bring us back to the flock. He sees the danger that we are not be able to see.

You need to understand that when a Pastor offers you a word of correction, it is not because he dislikes you or wants to make your life miserable, it's because he sees where the path will lead. God has gifted him to see things that you are not able to see.

It's not always easy to receive correction, especially when we are away from the flock, but it's imperative that you do.

### **Proverbs 15:10**

**10** Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

When we are walking our own way and we have gotten off course, correction is hard to receive, but if you don't receive it, the scripture tells us we will die spiritually.