

What is a Pastor?

People have all kinds of ideas of what a Pastor is and what he should do, and sometimes they are funny.

The perfect pastor:

- Preaches his sermons in exactly 12 minutes.
- Frequently condemns sin but never upsets anyone.
- Works from 8:00 a.m. until midnight.
- He not only preaches but serves as the church janitor and lawn trimmer.
- Makes \$100 per week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a nice car, and gives \$50 per week to the church.
- Is 28 years of age, with 30 years of preaching experience.
- Is wonderfully gentle and ruggedly handsome.
- Gives of himself completely and is very transparent but never gets too close to anyone lest he be criticized.
- He attends every event that every different church ministry is putting on, including at least 5 different Christmas parties per year.
- Has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and spends all his time with the seniors.
- Prepares three or four inspiring lessons weekly from his lengthy hours in study.
- Makes 15 calls daily to visit church members, visits the shut-ins and those in the hospital, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is always in his office when needed.

Sometimes people get confused as to what a Pastor is and what his responsibilities are, so it's important that we understand, and revisit from time to time, the Biblical definition of a Pastor.

As we said last week, a Pastor is described in the Bible as a shepherd.

A good shepherd:

- Has sheep that follow him for they know His voice and don't follow the voice of a stranger (v.4-5).
- 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 in order to grow the flock (v.16).
- Searches for lost sheep when they go astray.

A good Pastor does the same things ...

That is what a Pastor is - a shepherd. He is the leader and must keep watch for the flock BUT the saints, like sheep, also have a responsibility - they must follow his leadership. Saints must be submitted to him if the "flock" is going to stay intact and

grow. Having leaders is important, but having people that are willing to follow is equally important in the body of Christ.

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, because if you resist the power that God has ordained, you resist 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.

You being submitted has little to do with your pastors but has much to do with you! There is great power, blessing and anointing that comes through submission. It blesses YOU!

That's why everybody needs a Pastor. Because God wants to anoint you, use you and empower you!

You might think that you can do this all on your own, but God doesn't work that way. There is no such thing as a lone-ranger Christian. God desires for everybody to be accountable to a man or woman of God; your Pastor.

Throughout your Bible, men and women that were used **mightily** by God were in submission and subjection to someone else.

Esther had Mordecai

Elisha had Elijah

Timothy and Titus had Paul

David had Nathan

- Sometimes the man of God speaks a word of correction, and it's important that we receive it even when it is difficult!

Proverbs 9:8

8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Sometimes your leaders come with the rod of correction to get you back on track. Rather than getting mad, say thank you Pastor!

Joshua

Joshua was mightily used by God. Under his leadership the Israelites conquered dozens of cities and towns including the fortified city of Jericho. Under his leadership the Israelites finally took possession of God's promised land. Joshua was a mighty man who slew many of God's enemies. But before Joshua was, himself, the leader of Israel, for many years prior he was serving and submitted to his leader, Moses.

Joshua was referred to as Moses' minister and his servant in different places in Exodus and Numbers.

Joshua was the one Moses turned to to lead an army against the Amalekites. (Exodus 17:9).

Joshua accompanied Moses up Mount Sinai higher than anyone else right before Moses received the ten commandments. (Exodus 24:13).

Joshua is one of only two who gave Moses a good report of Canaan (Numbers 14:7).

In many ways, Joshua was Moses' right hand man. He was a submitted servant!

Had Joshua not been so committed and submitted to his leader Moses, he would have never received the call of God ... because God called Joshua through Moses.

Numbers 27:18-19

18 And the Lord **said unto Moses**, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.

The same event is recorded in Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 34:9

9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did **as the Lord commanded Moses**.

Joshua was called to lead by God **through his leader**, Moses.

If you feel called by God, talk to your pastor about it. If God is talking to you about it then he will talk to your pastor about it too.

Maybe your not feeling anything at all for your life, but your pastor is. (Mission field, plant a church, preaching point, sunday school teacher, etc.) Perhaps that is God's will. It is important that we are submitted to our leaders, because perhaps God wants to call you to ministry through them, just like Joshua.

God's will and calling for you will never be in disagreement with what your pastor feels for you.

If you feel called to go plant a church, the mission field, or some specific ministry and your pastor isn't feeling it: 1. either it isn't really God's will and you need to seek God more, or 2. it isn't the right time. It is important at this moment that you submit to your pastor's leadership and wait until he feels a release in his spirit or until God reveals another plan. **DON'T GO ANYWAY!** If you go, you go without the anointing and blessing of God.

Samuel

Samuel was a man who was mightily used by God. Samuel was known as both a judge and prophet of Israel. At a relatively young age, Samuel led an Israelite army against the Philistines and won. It was Samuel who God chose to anoint the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

Before Samuel was one of God's mighty prophets, he was a servant of Eli the priest in the temple of God.

One night as Samuel was sleeping in the temple, God began speaking to him.

1 Samuel 3:1-11

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11 And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

During his time of service to Eli the priest, Samuel heard the voice of God. He didn't realize that it was God's voice, he thought it was Eli's. Samuel thought he was just responding to the voice of a man, but he was actually responding to God.

You might think that being submitted to your Pastor is just responding to the voice of a man, but you are actually responding to God's voice.

Samuel was only around 13 years old when this happened. His willingness to respond to the voice of his leader ultimately allowed him to learn the voice of God. If Samuel had ignored the voice thinking it was just Eli, he would have never heard from God.