

Fundamentals Of The Church

Stinky Shepherds

(I Pt 5:1-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. This morning we begin looking at the breakdown of the church government.
 - b. That begins with "Stinky Shepherds."
3. Shepherds biblically have many different names and thus descriptions.
 - a. In **I Pt 5:1-11** you see all three names that can be given to the pastors.
 - i. Elders - **I Pt 5:1** "The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed"¹ (emphasis mine)
 1. **Ti 1:5; Ac 14:23**
 - ii. Bishops/Overseers - **I Pt 5:2** "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly" (emphasis mine)
 1. **I Ti 3:1; Ac 20:28; Ph 1:1**
 - iii. Shepherds/Pastors - **I Pt 5:2** "**Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly"
4. Pastors or Elders or Bishops have qualifications as well.
 - a. **I Ti 3:1-7 & Ti 1:5-16** gives many of these qualifications.
 - i. Husband of one wife is one of those.
 - ii. Having believing children is another.
 1. How many people today think "pastors" need to be married to be one in the denominational world, or that they must be male or that they have to have children?
5. Let us look not this morning at the "qualifications" but the titles and thus duties of the overseers.
 - a. Shepherds are to smell like their sheep.

I. They Are To Be Shepherds or Pastors

- A. Shepherds of the flock (not cattleman)
 1. **I Pt 5:2** "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly"
 2. **Ac 20:28** "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

¹ All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- B. Not owners of the flock (stewards not hirelings)
 - 1. **Jn 10:11-14** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.
 - 2. **I Pt 5:4** "and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."
 - 3. **He 13:20** "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant"

II. They Are To Be Bishops or Overseers

- A. Delegates where necessary the physical affairs of the congregation
 - 1. **Ac 6:2** "Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables."
 - i. This passage is not dealing with elders & deacons however there are principles that still apply.
- B. Oversees the affairs that were delegated
 - 1. **I Pt 5:2** "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" (ESV)
 - 2. Though elders are to delegate they are never to relinquish authority or not have a say in the physical affairs. They are to be completely immersed in them but from a managerial point of view.
- C. Overseers are not in the project business but the people business
 - 1. Congregations are being crippled because to many elders have it to where everything is channeled through them.
 - 2. It is said by some that the reason the Priest and Levite, in the Good Samaritan, passed by was because they had to go ask their elders if they could help.
 - i. This is the way some deacons and members feel and though there is some truth to the thought there is also a reality that if something is biblical you can do it without asking...though there are exceptions as always.
 - a. Example: If a group of people want to get together to study the Bible in a home above and beyond the usual attendance of the saints than there is no reason to "get permission" for such.
 - b. Example: If a group or people want to send money out of the treasury to help a missionary they need permission.

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III. They Are To Be Elders or Presbyters

- A. Not young of years
 - 1. Thayer's Greek Dic. states, "universally, advanced in life, an elder, a senior (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
 - 2. **Ac 11:29-20** "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."
 - i. **Ac 20:17** "From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church."
 - ii. **Ja 5:14** "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."
- B. Not young of knowledge
 - 1. **I Ti 3:6** "not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil."

IV. They Are To Take Heed To The Flock

- A. Overseers must hear the warning of God about those that do not take heed to the flock
 - 1. **Ek 34:1-10** "And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. 6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them." 7 'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 8 "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"— 9 therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD! 10 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them."'"

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CONCLUSION

1. Pastors are upright Christians with a difficult but rewarding job – **I Ti 5:17**
 - a. Bishops are responsible for the flock, and sheep have never been known for their smarts.
 - b. That is why they are to "smell like" their sheep. That is what it means to be a stinky shepherd. They are so close with them each they know them each intimately.
2. Though we do not have pastors here in this congregation right now ie qualified men we do have men that care for this congregation greatly and are leading it in the best way they can.
 - a. Let us never grow content however with not have elders as this is what God wants and desires for us to be scripturally organized.
 - i. At the moment we are scripturally unorganized biblically speaking.
3. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**