

The Pastor's Role and the Church's Response

In understanding the purpose and meaning of the church, and for it to become what it must become, there is one over-riding attitude. It is necessary for the pastor to have, for the individual members to have, and for the overall planning within the church. It is found in **Psalm 115:1**

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*

THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR

Acts 20:28-34

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.* 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 everyone with tears.* ³² *And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.* ³³ *I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.* ³⁴ *You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.*

1. Be careful of your life
 - a. Richard Baxter – “Be careful that you don’t unsay with your life what you say with your lips”
2. Be careful for the church

1 Peter 5:1-3

*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.***

Eph 4:11-13

11 And **he gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 **to equip the saints** for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

2 Tim 3:16-4:2

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

4 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**

THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THEIR PASTOR

1. Attend Regularly

- a. **Hebrews 10:24** -- 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.
- b. Acts 2:42 -- And **they devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2. It is essential that the church be united in **PRAYER**.

- a. **Romans 12:12** -- Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer.**
- b. **Colossians 4:2** -- Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
- c. **Hebrews 13:18** -- **Pray for us**, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things

3. Submit Humbly -- Church members are called to submit to the church's leadership and teaching.

- a. **1 Thess 5:12-13** -- 12 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.

- b. **Heb 13:7, 17** -- 7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith

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.

4. Preserve Unity!

- a. **Ephesians 4:1-2** -- I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- b. **John 13:35** – ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love** for one another.”
- c. **John 17:23** -- ²³ I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**
- d. **Colossians 3:12-13** -- 12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you**, so you also must forgive

5. Give Generously!

- a. **2 Corinthians 9:7** -- 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- b. **1 Corinthians 16:2** -- On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, **as he may prosper**, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

6. Pursue Holiness!

- a. **Romans 12:1-2** -- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- b. **Heb 12:14** -- 14 Strive for peace with everyone, **and for the holiness** without which no one will see the Lord.

FINALLY:

John 21:15-17

15 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 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."

It's amazing to me that Jesus never once asked Peter if he loved sheep!! The question is, "do you love Jesus?"