

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Part 5

March 12, 2017

River of Life

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Ephesians 4:

*¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be **pastors and teachers**, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - NIV*

The Five Leadership Gifts of Ephesians

Pastor –literally means “Shepherd”

- The word "Pastor" only occurs once in that form in the New Testament
- The Word for Pastor in Ephesians 4:11 is the Greek Word poimen (poy-mane')
- The Greek word appears 18 times in the New Testament as the word shepherd
- A shepherd, who cared for flocks of sheep and goats was a common sight in Israel
- This term is used to describe the leaders in the church who are given primary spiritual care for the people of the church
- Jesus refers to Himself as a shepherd

The Purpose of the Gift of Pastor

According to Thayer's Bible Dictionary, the tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were:

1. To watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep
2. To defend the sheep from attackers
3. To heal the wounded and sick sheep
4. To find and save lost or trapped sheep
5. To love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust.

The modern Evangelical Church has distorted the purpose of the gift of pastor

The role of pastor has been broadened to be an impossible task (Ministry Today Magazine)

- To preach and teach the word
- To oversee the daily administration of the church at every level – The Chief Spiritual Officer
- To raise money and oversee budgetary process
- To marry and to conduct funerals
- To Counselor
- Career coach
- Business advisor
- Custodian

The modern Evangelical Church has distorted the purpose of the gift of pastor

- Arbitrator.
- Social worker.
- Volunteer coordinator.
- Events manager.
- CEO. (Chairman of boards and committees)
- Fundraiser & Multi-Project manager
- Recruiter & HR Director
- Trainer

The modern Evangelical Church has distorted the purpose of the gift of pastor

- Scholar
- Writer
- Manager
- Public Relations Director

1. The Church needs to restore the Biblical role of a spiritual shepherd!
2. Pastors need other leadership giftings to come alongside and compliment
3. It is not the pastor who is to do ALL the work of ministry – It is the priesthood of all believers

State of the American Pastor: Improving Trend from 1989

Schaeffer Institute of leadership Development, © 2016, (research from 1989 to 2016, ongoing)
lead researcher Rev. Richard J. Krejcir, Ph.D., www.churchleadership.org

79% of Evangelical and Reformed pastors are happier personally

88% of churches are treating their pastors better, too

88% have a high view of Christ

75% are better at their spiritual formation

57% are more satisfied in their calling

However, 54% of pastors still work over 55 hours a week

57% can't pay their bills

54% are overworked and 43% are overstressed

35% battle depression

26% are overly fatigued

28% are spiritually undernourished and 9% are burnt-out

23% are still distant to their families

18% work more than 70 hours a week and face unreasonable challenges

12% are belittled.

3% have had an affair

Yet, 90% feel honored to be a pastor!

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- 65% of pastors feel their family is in a 'glass house' and fear they are not good enough to meet expectations.
- 35% of pastors feel their churches are in sync to their family needs.
- 56% of pastor's families are pleased with their church.
- 24% of family's resent the church and its effects on their family.
- 52% of pastors feel they are overworked and can't meet their church's unrealistic expectations.
- 44% of pastors feel their churches are in sync to ministry agendas.
- 58% of pastors feel they do not have any good true friends.
- 42% of pastors feel their church, empowers them to have a life outside of the church.
- 35% of pastor's battle depression or fear of inadequacy. 65% do not (This is an opposite correspondence from our last major study in 1992 and 2000).
- 27% of pastors stated they have no one to turn to if they are facing a crisis. 73% do.
- 60% of pastor's wives feel their church treats their family well
- 22% of pastor's wives feel the ministry places undue expectations on their family.
- 26% of pastor's wives feel church is a prime source of stress for their family.
- 63% of pastor's wives feel finances are a prime source of stress for their family.
- 77% of pastors spend 20 hours a week or more with their families; this is significantly up from previous studies!

Jesus as a Model of a Spiritual Shepherd/ Pastor

Jesus as the Chief Shepherd

- Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- Matthew 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
- Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’
- John 10:2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.
- Joh 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Jesus as a Model of a Spiritual Shepherd/ Pastor

Jesus as the Chief Shepherd

- John 10:12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.
- John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--
- John 10:16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.
- Hebrews 13:20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,
- 1Peter 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Three Words used interchangeable for Pastors in the New Testament

1. Presbuteros

- Appears 73 times - translated “elder” 57 times
- Often each local church had several elders
- *Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. – NIV*
- *Lead pastor was often referred to as a ruling elder. All elders showed leadership and care of a shepherd, but not all were teachers/preachers*

2. Episkopos

- Translated Bishop or Overseer, but used interchangeably with elder

3. Diakonos

- Translated “minister”, “servant”, or “deacon”
- People appointed to serve the church in practical ways

Elders/ Pastors who preach and teach

The terms **Pastor** and **elder** are often used interchangeably in Scripture (esp. in **Timothy** and **Titus**).

- **I Timothy 5:17** *“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” - NIV*
- Here, Paul refers to a “teaching elder.” This office is what we commonly refer to as pastor. Some elders were shepherds, caring for God’s people, but not publicly teaching.
- Not all elders are teaching/ preaching pastors
- An elder whose gift is teaching is worthy of double honor (honor here in context refers to material practical support). In other words – take care of these guys! **“ Vs. 18 For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”**

Qualifications of elders Titus 1:5-9 New Living Translation (NLT) (Also see 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

“⁵ I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. ⁶ An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. ⁷ A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered;

Qualifications of elders Titus 1:5-9 New Living Translation (NLT)

he must **not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money.**

⁸ Rather, he **must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good.** He must **live wisely and be just.** He must **live a devout and disciplined life.** ⁹ He must have **a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught;** then he will be **able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.”**

The Purpose of the Gift of Teacher

Didaskolos (Gk.)

1. To Provide understanding of Scripture, training in how to live your faith, and respond to God's call
2. Not just information, but focus on
 - character formation
 - transformation through God's power
3. Some teachers worked in a local fellowship, others traveled, i.e. Apollos in Corinth and teachers at Antioch

Marks of a Teacher

Teacher - A person who is able to communicate clearly the truths of God's Word to His people

- **James 3:1** *Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. - NIV*
- **Many people who call themselves evangelists today are actually traveling teachers.**
- **Some pastors are teachers, but not all teachers are pastors. A person can teach and not have a pastoral gift.**
- **Teachers are marked by the following:**
 - Make complex truth understandable
 - Reveal God's heart, character and ways to people
 - Keep the truth of God before God's people
 - Love the study of God's Word and knowledge and pass that on to others.
 - Many are "storytellers" who can illustrate the truth of God in ways that connect with people's hearts and culture



River of Life

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