



Shepherdology: Principles on Pastoring **The Biblical Leading Functions of a Pastor**

This study is informational to a great extent, telling us what God expects pastors to do. However, you can also review these functions in light of parenting! So much of pastoring is like being a parent (1 Thes 2:7, 11).

1. Praying for the Flock

Acts 6:3-4 ³Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word. *[note that these duties relate to what is described elsewhere for pastors: the apostles were functioning as pastors, not just apostles; the prompting of deacons was to help them continue their pastoral duties]*

Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

Col 1:9-12 ⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Col 4:12 ¹²Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

2 Thes 1:11-12 ¹¹Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹²that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

James 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.

2. Ruling Over the Assembly

1 Thes 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you. *[proistemi]*

1 Tim 3:4-5 ⁴one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence ⁵(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); *[see also 3:12]*

1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor...: *[cp Romans 12:8 "leads"]*

Heb 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. *[hegeomai - noun form is translated "governor" and indicates decision-making]*

Heb 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Heb 13:24 Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

3. Multiplying [Mentoring] Leadership

2 Tim 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

4. Examining Potential Leaders

Acts 6:3, 6 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ^{**}whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

1 Tim 3:1-2 ¹This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ²A bishop then must be blameless...

1 Tim 3:10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless.

Titus 1:6 if a man is blameless...

5. Appointing Leaders

Acts 6:3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

Acts 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

1 Tim 5:22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

Titus 1:5b and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—

6. Guarding Elders from False Accusation, and Rebuking Elders Who Sin

1 Tim 5:19-21 ¹⁹Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. ²¹I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

7. Watching for Dangers

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. [*griegoreo – be or keep awake; watch, be alert; be alive*]

2 Tim 4:5 But you be watchful in all things... [*nepho – be sober; be self-controlled = alert*]

2 Tim 4:15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. [*phulasso – guard, keep under guard; keep, obey, follow; keep safe, protect, defend; midd. guard against, avoid*]

8. Protecting the Flock from Selfish Leaders and False Teachers

Acts 20:28-30 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. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

2 Pet 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

1 Tim 1:3-7 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. ⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

9. Rejecting Divisive Men (After the 2nd Admonition)

Titus 3:10-11 ¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

10. Waging a Good Warfare

1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

1 Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

11. Providing Doctrinal and Functional Structure and Organization

Titus 1:5a For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking,

1 Tim 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless ...of good behavior...

1 Tim 2:11-12 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

1 Cor 11:34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

12. Enduring Suffering and Hardship

2 Tim 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

2 Tim 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Tim 4:5 ...endure afflictions...

NOTE: Each shepherding function seems to have the capability of being distorted in an inappropriate, imbalanced, or sinful manner. Example:

- Leading – it is obvious that leading involves giving direction, making decisions, and even giving commands based upon the Word. However, shepherds are told by Peter not to be overpowering (1 Pet 5:3 cp Acts 19:6), seemingly leading by force. This does not preclude hard making hard or unpopular decisions.