

Shepherding in Action

Overview of Shepherding in Action

Romans 12:3-8 ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- As it has pleased Him, God has dealt to each believer spiritual abilities & positions. (1 Cor 12:11,18)
- As a result, we are not all the same, and have different God-designed functions. (1 Pet 4:10-11)
- Though different, we are one body, and members of each other. (1 Cor 12:20)
- We are to minister in the realm of our gifts, each doing our part as God designed. (Eph 4:16)
- We are to minister with the full extent of the ability God gives us (1 Pet 4:10-11)

As these statements are true within our entire local body, they are also true within our pastoral team. Our new titles reflect our areas of giftedness and experience. We have taken on labels that indicate our primary areas of focus to a large degree based upon how we believe God has gifted us. The first term is the general term, and the second can be seen as a part of the first: leadership, including administration; discipleship, including counseling (a form of discipleship); and fellowship, including fellowship-related visitation.

We do not present these individual focuses as exclusive. We believe that every pastor is involved in leadership and administration. We believe that every pastor is involved in discipleship and counseling. We believe that every pastor is involved in fellowship and visitation. These simply will be the areas that each of us will assume to practice and promote as *our primary areas of emphasis*, as God has gifted us, and as our experience has given depth to those areas.

Shepherding in Action #1: Leadership & Administration

Direction (Offense & Defense) & Details – Vision & Administration

Key Terms & Verses:

Rom 12:8 ...he who leads, with diligence... (ὁ προϊστάμενος ἐν σπουδῇ)

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,

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

1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

1 Thes 2:11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,

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.

2 Tim 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. [*to find the direction and necessary wisdom from the Word*]

Description:

Leadership – To take the responsibility and initiative for the care, direction, and protection of the flock, based upon the truths of God's Word.

Administration – To manage and oversee the necessary details involved in leading a flock.

Examples:

OT – Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Judges

Peter was specifically assigned the task to feed and tend Jesus' sheep (John 21:15-17); led the apostles in securing a replacement to Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26); served as spokesman for the rest of the apostles (Acts 2:14; 4:8,19; 5:3,8,29; 8:20); was the individual jailed (Acts 12:3 – considered the ringleader?) and continued to speak up in doctrinal discussions (Acts 15:7).

The **Apostles** handled finances (Acts 4:34-37), directed the care of widows, including the appointment of deacons (Acts 6:1-7); and with the Jerusalem elders, determined the doctrinal basis for salvation (Acts 15:6 cp 16:4).

James was addressed as the key figure (Acts 12:17 “go tell this to James and the brethren”); leads the church in Jerusalem by bringing a solution to the doctrinal discussion considered by the apostles and elders (Acts 15:13-22); and continued to be “the” leader among the elders (Acts 21:17-19, “went in with us to James, and all the elders were present”).

Paul was the leader of the Paul/Barnabas team (Acts 14:12 – in Lystra – “And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker”); strategically chose to suffer wrong and claim rights as would benefit the church (Acts 16:35-37); and confronted Peter publicly, when he acted unbiblically regarding Gentile believers (Gal 2:11-14).

Elders led the church and were responsible to lead, oversee, and protect it (Acts 20:17, 28-31); received the financial support of the other churches, to distribute as needed (Acts 11:30); were required to hold fast the faithful Word as they had been taught, including aggressively countering false teaching (Titus 1:9-11); and seem to be the messengers in Rev 2-3, who were responsible to inform the flocks and presumably to lead them rightly.

Timothy was sent by Paul to Thessalonica to establish and strengthen the believers there (1 Thes 3:2); was commanded by Paul to control and limit teachers (1 Tim 1:3-4); to instruct and guide men and women as to their gender-related responsibilities and limitations (1 Tim 2:8-15); to test potential leaders as to their qualifications (1 Tim 3:1-15); to care for true widows and what to instruct younger widows (1 Tim 5:3-12); to insure that elders are honored and protected (1 Tim 5:17-21); to command the rich in their conduct (1 Tim 6:17); to be the one holding fast to the pattern of sound words (2 Tim 1:13); to lead, watch, and fight as a soldier (1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:3-6; 4:5); to present **himself** approved unto God by rightly dividing the Word (2 Tim 2:15); and to take the initiative in preaching regardless of the outcome (2 Tim 4:1-4).

Titus was instructed by Paul to set things in order that were lacking as well as appointing elders in each city (Titus 1:5); to remind believers of proper conduct (Titus 3:1-2, 14); and to officially reject a divisive man (Titus 3:10-11).

Emphases:

1. To give vision and direction for the assembly, on the basis of the Word of God, from the pulpit and on the pastoral team.
2. To lead and protect in developing a platform of Biblical doctrine.
3. To guide the assembly toward establishment of a Biblical philosophy (what, why, & how) of ministry.
4. To develop and mentor future leaders.
5. To manage, coordinate and organize the details and processes of the assembly, as needs require.