



Shepherdology: Principles on Pastoring
The Biblical Feeding Functions of a Pastor

"but we will give ourselves continually to ... the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:4)

1. Holding Fast to the Truth

(learning the truth, & holding to what is learned)

2 Tim 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

2. Studying the Word

1 Tim 5:17 ...especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. *(time, effort, exhaustion)*

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *(difficult, requires diligence, ACCURACY, there are wrong ways to divide the Word, and laziness not to do so)*

2 Tim 4:13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come--and the books, especially the parchments.

3. Exercising Oneself to Godliness

1 Tim 4:7b ... and exercise yourself toward godliness.

4. Being an Example

1 Tim 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Tim 4:15-16 ¹⁵ Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. ¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2 Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Titus 2:7-8 ⁷ in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

5. Equipping for Maturity and Ministry

Eph 4:11-16 ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- for ministry work
- for building up of the body, by bringing them to:
 - **unity**– “to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God” (unity from common belief)
 - **maturity**– “to a perfect (telios) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”
 - **stability**– “no longer...tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine”
 - **honesty**– “speaking the truth in love”
 - **charity**– “in love”
 - **community**– “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies”
 - **ministry**– “according to the effective working by which every part does its share”

6. Teaching the Word

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, 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.” (cp. 21:17 “feed my sheep”)

1 Tim 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, ...able to teach;

1 Tim 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

1 Tim 4:11 These things command and teach.

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.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

7. Reminding Believers of Things They Already Know

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

2 Pet 1:12 ¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

8. Reproving, Rebuking, & Exhorting Believers

1 Tim 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. [reading, encouraging, teaching]

2 Tim 4:1-4 ¹ I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. [*Exhort* can be translated "comfort" or "encourage" as well.]

9. Correcting Believers

2 Tim 2:24-26 ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and* escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will. [*paideuo* – instruct, train, teach; discipline, correct; whip, scourge, beat – Eph 6:4 = "training"]

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

10. Rejecting Bad Teaching and Foolish Discussions

1 Tim 4:7a But reject profane and old wives' fables...

1 Tim 6:20-21 ²⁰ O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- ²¹ by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

2 Tim 2:16-17 ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

2 Tim 2:23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

11. Directing Teachers and Teaching

1 Tim 1:3-7 ³ 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.-- [*parangello* – command, order, give strict orders – 1 Tim 4:11; 5:7; 6:17; Acts 16:23; 17:30; 2 Thes 3:4,6,10 (cp. 1 Tim 6:3-5; James 3:1; 2 Tim 2:14-15; Titus 1:9-14)]

- "desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm" seems to indicate *poor* teachers, *unqualified* teachers, rather than false teachers. Since they do not know what they are talking about, they focus on worthless fables and genealogies and idle talk.

Titus 1:9-14 ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

1 Tim 6:3-5 ³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. From such withdraw yourself.

2 Tim 2:14-15 ¹⁴ Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

12. Evangelizing Unbelievers

2 Tim 4:5 ...do the work of an evangelist...

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some [to be] ... evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Each shepherding function seems to have an inappropriate, imbalanced, or sinful distortion. Examples of this in the feeding area: (1) teaching error by not studying (2 Tim 2:15); (2) by embracing doctrines of devils (1 Tim 4:1); (3) teaching harshly, rather than with patience and gentleness (2 Tim 2:24); (4) teaching what people want to hear rather than what they need to hear (2 Tim 4:3-4); (5) teaching what one does not know (1 Tim 1:3-7).