

The Pastor

Feeder

Leader

Pray-er

Protector

by Pastor Art Kohl



**The Pastor:
Feeder, Leader,
Pray-er, Protector**
by Pastor Art Kohl

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I. Introduction:

We are told by God in Jeremiah 3:15, *“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”* From this verse we are taught:

1. Pastors are God-given.

If a man has not been called by God he should resign and get out of the ministry. He is dishonest to say he is called by God if he is not. True Pastors are God-given.

2. Pastors are given from God’s heart.

It is from the very heart of God that He gifts the church with apostles (missionaries), prophets (preachers), evangelists, pastors and teachers. *(See Ephesians 4:11-16)*. The Pastor is a gift from God to the church. He came from the heart of God.

3. Pastors should feed you.

Jeremiah 23:4 says, *“And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.”* More on this later.

4. Pastors are to give knowledge and understanding.

In order to do this, he must be experienced and mature in the Lord. Knowledge is facts. Understanding is how to use the facts. Wisdom is doing the facts. A Pastor cannot give wisdom, but he should give knowledge (facts) and understanding (how to use the facts)

II. The Pastor - A Feeder

Pastors must feed the people of God spiritual, life-sustaining food. Consider the following verses which teach this:

Proverbs 10:21, *“The lips of the righteous **feed** many; but fools die for want of wisdom.”*

Isaiah 40:11, *“He shall **feed** his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”*

John 21:15-17, *“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed** my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed** my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed** my sheep.”*

Acts 20:28, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

I Corinthians 3:2, *“I have **fed** you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.”*

I Corinthians 9:7, *“Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who **feedeth** a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?”*

I Peter 5:2, *“**Feed** the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”*

Failure to feed the people of God is failure at the Pastor's main office.

This failure is noted by God. The following texts are examples of failure:

Jeremiah 23:1-2, *“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.”*

Ezekiel 34:1-3, “And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: **but ye feed not the flock.**”

Ezekiel 34:7-10, “Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but **the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;** Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.”

Note: The words “feed,” “fed,” or “feeding” are found 14 times in Ezekiel 34. Every Pastor should read this chapter often.

Now let us notice the good example of Christ as a Shepherd:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, “For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.”

The word “Shepherd” and “Pastor” in the Old Testament come from the exact same Hebrew word. Pastors should consider themselves shepherds over the people (flock) God has given him.

The pastor (shepherd) is to feed his flock. How is he to feed? By the Word of God and doctrine.

I Timothy 5:17, *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”*

He is not to preach shallow sermons but is to labour in teaching God’s Word and doctrine (beliefs and behavior). His pay, determined by the congregation, is to be based on whether or not he is doing that. Who would pay a shepherd that let his lambs and sheep die of starvation?

The Pastor is to feed with the Word. The Word portrays itself in 10 different ways, therefore the Pastor should preach 10 types of sermons (these are listed in chronological order, not necessarily order of importance):

1. A Message of Gold & Silver

Psalms 19:10a, *“More to be desired are they than gold...”*

Psalms 12:6, *“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.”*

Psalms 12:7, *“Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”*

Some preaching should be precious, and share things of value greater than anything on earth. The trying of our faith (*I Peter 1:7*) or intimacy with Christ (*Colossians 2:3*), for example, are more valuable than riches.

2. A Message of Honey

Psalms 19:10b, *“[The law of the Lord is] sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”*

Proverbs 24:13, *“My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:”*

Proverbs 24:14, *“So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.”*

Sometimes preaching should be sweet. Many subjects like peace, comfort, Heaven, and love can be a sweet blessing. Not all preaching has to be hard and bitter.

3. A Message of Light

Psalms 119:105, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

The preacher must use the scriptures to shed light on subjects of faith and practice. He should teach practical messages of how to live for God in this dark world.

4. A Message of Fire

Jeremiah 23:29a, *“Is not my word like as a fire?...”*

Fire is hot. Some preaching needs to be hot - purifying sermons that purge the dross of our lives. (*Proverbs 25:4*)

5. A Message like a Hammer

Jeremiah 23:29b, “...and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

Some preaching is like a sledgehammer that breaks the rock-hard heart in pieces. Sometimes pastors need to preach hard against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Note: This must be a work of the Holy Ghost through the preacher. Those who preach “hammer” sermons in the flesh can do more harm than good!

6. A Message of Bread

Matthew 4:4, “*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*”

Preaching must sustain people. Every message should contain practical, spiritual teaching that will nourish the hearer throughout the week.

7. A Message like a Seed

Luke 8:11, “...*The seed is the word of God.*”

Not all preaching changes lives immediately. Sometimes it must be preached with the hopes that - as a seed buried in the earth - it will grow and someday bear fruit its the hearers. Therefore, the preacher should always plan ahead, and see where his flock *could* be, then lead them there.

8. A Message like a Sword

Hebrews 4:12, “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

Some sermons must cut to the soul, spirit, flesh and heart. Intentions and motives must be exposed and corrected. The heart of the human must be dealt with. Again, this must be a work of the Holy Spirit, and not a work of the pastor’s flesh!

9. A Message of Meat

Hebrews 5:14, “*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*”

Mature Christians need some meat from the sermons.

Matthew 13:52, “*Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto*

a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

The preacher must give out some deeper things that will continue to strengthen those of fuller age.

10. A Message of Milk

I Peter 2:2, *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”*

The baby in Christ must not have meat jammed down his throat. He will choke and die. He must have milk. The preacher must show temperance in his preaching to ensure he doesn't destroy his lambs.

Paul did in I Corinthians 3:1-2, *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.”*

III. The Pastor - A Leader

The second duty of the pastor is to lead. Shepherds do not drive their sheep, they lead them gently:

Isaiah 40:11, *“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”*

II Corinthians 10:1, *“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you.”*

Psalms 18:35, *“Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.”*

I Thessalonians 2:7, *“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:”*

II Timothy 2:24, *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,”*

How is a Pastor to lead?

1. Not by Dominion

II Corinthians 1:24, *“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.”*

I Peter 5:3, *“Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”*

Revelation 2:15, *“So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”* “Nicolaitans” comes from two Greek words Nikao which means “to have power over” and laity which means “the people”. The Lord hates this doctrine.

Revelation 2:6, *“But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”* The Lord hates this deed.

It is **the Lord’s** church and **the Lord’s** people. The good Pastor will always remember this: Christ is the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd and the Chief Shepherd. The pastor is the undershepherd.

2. By Example

Christ led by example:

John 13:15, *“For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”*

I Peter 2:21, *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”*

Timothy, a young pastor in Ephesus was instructed this way:

I Timothy 4:12, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*

The Apostle Paul advised believers:

Philippians 3:17, *“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”*

II Thessalonians 3:9, *“Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.”*

Hebrews 13:7, *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”*

IV. The Pastor - A Prayer

Acts 6:4, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

The man who doesn't give himself continually to prayer is not fit for the ministry. He should resign or repent.

Let us look at the examples of 3 men:

1. Christ:

Matthew 26:36, "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."

Luke 3:21, "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,"

Luke 6:12a, "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."

Luke 9:18, "And it came to pass, as he was alone praying. . ."

Luke 11:1, "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Luke 18:1, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"

Hebrews 5:7, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;"

2. Paul

Romans 1:9, "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"

Ephesians 1:15, "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints," Ephesians 1:16, "Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;"

Philippians 1:4, "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,"

Colossians 1:3, "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,"

I Thessalonians 1:2, "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;"

II Timothy 1:3, *“I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;”*

Philemon 1:4, *“I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,”*

3. Epaphras:

Colossians 4:12, *“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”*

Pray, pray, pray, then pray some more! Oswald Chambers once said, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer **is** the greater work.”

V. The Pastor – A Protector

The shepherd must protect the sheep. All his duties are beautifully portrayed in the 23rd Psalm. Included is the rod and staff.

The rod and staff were used to prod the sheep to get going, pull the sheep back into line, and beat off lions or other predators from devouring the sheep.

In a great discourse every Pastor should read often (Acts 20:17-35), the Apostle Paul warns the elders at Ephesus, “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:29-31).

In verse 29 the attack on the flock is from the outside. In verse 30 the attack on the flock is from the inside – even more subtle.

Be one guard for both. This will happen in your ministry. The wolves will come in with sheep’s clothing on. This brought Paul to tears in warning the elders (v.31). Do you think your ministry will be immune to this? Obey Paul when he says, “watch”.

It also happened to Jesus. Psalm 41:9 says of Him “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

David had the same experience recorded in Psalm 55:12-14, “For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.”

In my 35 years as a Pastor I can remember times where wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15-20) came in undetected. Eventually their fruit was seen, but not before they took people down with them. Other times, a church member or leader rose up in pride, rebellion and stubbornness, and led away disciples after themselves. I’ve seen people start unauthorized home Bible studies, and recruit young babes in Christ to join them. Still others were picked off by cults.

A good pulpit ministry of teaching sound doctrine consistently and praying fervently can keep these episodes down to a minimum. A well-educated church can pick out phonies in no time. Teach sound doctrine constantly in your sermons so your congregation will

practice the principle of Romans 16:17 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”

Calvinism, postmillennialism, “contemporary worship”, charismatic gifts, psuedobibles, etc. are all on the rise. Beat the devil to the punch by teaching sound doctrine *before* your people need it. Encourage your congregation to be a Bible-reading, Bible-studying, Bible-memorizing, church-going people. Be sure you feed them well. Know the Word! Protect the flock from dogs and false doctrine. It is your duty.

Take some time to re-read the Pastoral epistles of I Timothy, II Timothy, and Titus often. Heed the warnings. The local ministerium is sure to contact you about joining their ecumenical movement. That would not be good for your flock. A little leaven can leaven the whole lump. Advertise that you are an independent Baptist Church, and you may avoid this confrontation.

You will also have to battle some TV and radio preachers that members are fond of. You will have to battle some books they are reading. Be gentle (II Timothy 2:24). Provide them with good literature as an alternative. In my years, I’ve had to counter teaching from internet sites, videos, blogs, even psychics. We must watch and be awake, as watchmen on the wall.

VI. The People and the Pastor

We have seen the requirements for a pastor. In closing, let us look at the requirements of the people. What does God expect from a flock, in regards to the shepherd He has given them?

1. Receive Him

Matthew 10:41, *“He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”*

Philippians 2:29, *“Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:”*

2. Esteem Him Very Highly

I Thessalonians 5:12-13, *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”*

3. Remember Him

Hebrews 13:7, *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”*

4. Obey And Submit To Him

Hebrews 13:17, *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

5. Salute Him

Hebrews 13:24, *“Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.”*

6. Pray For Him

II Corinthians 1:11, *“Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”*

7. Support Him

I Timothy 5:17-18, *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.”*

8. Defend Him

I Timothy 5:1, *“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;”*

I Timothy 5:19, *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”*

Jeremiah 3:15
And I will give you pastors
according to mine heart,
which shall feed you with
knowledge and understanding.