

Portrait of a Pastor

Listening Guide

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:1–4

James reminds us that teachers will receive a stricter judgment (James 3:1), and Hebrews tells us that spiritual leaders will one day give an account for the souls entrusted to them. Pastoral ministry is a sacred calling that should never be entered lightly.

Main Theme: "Shepherd the flock of God among you..."

Peter describes the ministry of a pastor using three biblical pictures:

- Elder
- Shepherd
- Overseer (Bishop)

All three terms refer to the same person. Each emphasizes a different aspect of spiritual leadership.

I. The Responsibility of a Faithful Pastor

A Pastor is an Elder:

Key Scripture: *1 Pet. 5:1,2 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;*

- Acts 20:17, 28: *“From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church... Be on guard for yourselves and for 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.*

Characteristics of Elders

- Spiritual maturity
- Godly wisdom
- Biblical leadership
- Continual spiritual growth

Notes

A Pastor is a Shepherd:

A shepherd lovingly cares for God's people.

His responsibilities include:

Leading

- Leads by example
- Seeks God's direction
- Casts biblical vision

Psalm 23

John 10

Notes

Feeding

The shepherd leads God's people to the green pastures of God's Word.

Important truths

- The sheep belong to Christ.
- Healthy churches are fed by Scripture.
- Believers should learn to feed themselves from God's Word. *“The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:10,11)*

Notes

Protecting

A shepherd watches for danger.

He protects the church from:

- False teaching
- Spiritual deception
- Sin
- Division

Notes

A Pastor is an Overseer: (Bishop)

Key Scripture

1 Peter **5:2**: *shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;*

Responsibilities

- Provides spiritual oversight
- Helps guide the ministry of the church
- Gives leadership with humility
- Seeks God's direction for the congregation

Notes

II. The Accountability of a Faithful Pastor

Peter gives three important reminders of how a pastor serves...

Willingly

Not because he has to...

But because God has called him.

Notes

Eagerly

Not for personal gain...

But out of love for Christ and His church.

Notes

Humbly

Not lording authority over God's people...

But serving as an example.

Matthew 20:25–28: But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. ”

Notes

III. The Reward of a Faithful Pastor

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (1 Peter 5:4)

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.

Every earthly pastor serves under Him.

One day faithful shepherds will receive an unfading crown of glory.

Key Truths

- Christ owns the church.
- Christ appoints undershepherds.
- Christ will evaluate every pastor.
- Christ alone deserves all glory.

Notes
