



Sermon: "The Pastor As A Father"
Day 1

This week we are going to look at what a pastor is. He can have many roles, but all in essence are one and the same. We are going to walk briefly through the books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus, which are called the pastoral epistles. Quick history: Paul was the "spiritual father" of Timothy and Titus... meaning he spiritually "adopted" them and took the responsibility of overseeing their spiritual growth and training them in the ways of the Lord. Paul was a man of many talents and "roles" or gifts. In essence he was a "pastor" as well. So we will look at both sides of the coin this week: the commands he gives his pastors in training and how he himself operated as a pastor in the "father" sense.

Prerequisite for a pastor:

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16;

We see here that a pastor is to be an example to believers in **word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity**. Then he is commanded to "give attention" to reading (of scripture), to exhortation (or application, with encouragement), and to doctrine (or teaching the truth of scripture in an understandable, applicable way)

Read 1 Timothy 5:20,21;

Next we see that a pastor is to rebuke (correct for the spiritual benefit) those who are sinning and in error. **REMEMBER THIS!**

Finally read Jude 12-19; **A pastor is a shepherd to protect his flock from wolves in sheeps clothing** (false teachers and false teachings)



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Quick note: A shepherd's job is to protect his sheep and look after them. In ancient times, if a sheep wandered off from the flock, the shepherd would go after him and bring him back. If the sheep persisted in wandering off, the shepherd would break its leg. (You have to remember the sheep is one of the most defenseless animals on earth) So the shepherd would do this act of correction in love for the animal, to protect it from other wild animals. If the sheep still persisted in wandering off, the shepherd would dislocate the animals leg... this was a permanent injury.

Read Hebrews 12:12,13; "so that what is lame (the broken leg) may not be dislocated, but rather healed...NKJV."

In the same way a pastor protects his flock from false teachers/teachings, and corrects them (or at least should) when he sees them living in sin. This is a direct charge from God...
Read 1 Peter 5:1-3/ 1 Timothy 5:20-21

Why would God put such a weighty burden on a pastor?

Answer: 1 Peter 5:8

So the next time your pastor approaches you about something he thinks is doing spiritual damage to you... rather than get mad and offended by him..... remember he has to answer to God, he is directly charged by God to correct and protect without prejudice. His duty is Love from a pure heart!

I don't know about you, but personally I think Pastor Nate is doing a good job, through example, word, conduct, purity, and teaching of the word! He made a 5 week commitment to do devotions. Make a 5 week commitment with me to pray for him each night! After all, his job is a very heavy (heart) burden...and he will have a lot to answer for. Pray for our brother with me.



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Day 3

"The mark of a man of God, is based on what he is faithful to, and what he's fleeing from, and what he's fighting for" (quote from a Steve Camp song, *The Mark Of A Man Of God*)

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1; Phlippians 3:17:

As an example, a pastor should set **"the mark"**, and we should keep the pace

What exactly should he set the mark (standard) in?

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16 (pay attention to vs. 12 for the six things he should be an example in)

He is also to give attention to reading (of the scriptures), exhortation (application) and doctrine (or teaching God's word in accordance with the Truth)

If one is a good teacher, he sees the strength in an individual, and gears that person towards what he's good at, right? And so it is with a pastor and those placed in his trust.

So as a shepherd, he protects his "flock" from wolves from the outside and their false teachings.... as a teacher, he teaches the scriptures in accordance with the truth. And as an example.... he sets the mark or standard, for the rest to follow



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Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 4:15,16;

Background note: As we have learned, the city of Corinth and its inhabitants were a very wicked place. Paul, on one of his missionary journeys, brought the gospel to the city. He stayed for a time nurturing them, then he moved on. He got word of all the problems they were having and communication started by way of letters. He spends most of the time correcting them. But he was doing it out of the love of a "father".... because he had begotten them through the gospel.

Read 1 Timothy 5:20,21;

Do you have any kids? If so, when they do something wrong, do you let them get away with it? If you see them doing something dangerous (like crossing the street without looking), do you ignore it... Odds are NO. You see to it that they don't do it again. Why do you do this?

Its the same way with a pastor. His job is to approach us if he see's something that may bring spiritual hurt to ourselves and/or others. (like a shepherd) It's his job to protect his congregation from bad outside influences.(the same as a father does). And like a teacher, this "father" role of the pastor, he is to guide us in the direction he see's is our strengths (1 Timothy 4:14)

Read the book of titus..... it's a very short 3 chapters, you can even split it up between today and tomorrow.



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Day 5

As a shepherd; 1 Peter 5:1-4;

As a teacher/example; 2 Timothy 2:15-25 1 Timothy 4:12,13

What do you see a pastor as?

He might have many titles: a shepherd, a "father" 1 Corinthians 4:15 (if through him you came to the knowledge of the Lord), a teacher, a pastor, a guide.....

But in the end he is your brother... read Matthew 23:7-12, (attention to verses 8-9) and a servant of the Lord. Setting an example to us, and setting the mark for us to follow.

Finish Titus..... I know this week we had a lot to read, but meditate on these over the weekend.