**2. Shepherd/teachers special work is preaching and teaching the Word**

The **newly established churches** in the NT **all had elders.**

**Acts 14:23** Paul and Barnabas **appointed elders for them in each church** and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

True even of the **Jerusalem Church** where the apostles also were.

**Acts 15:2,4,6** So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem **to see the apostles and elders about this question.**

***“πρεσβύτεροs”*** an elder, **respected** leader, a man of **spiritual maturity.**

**The shepherding role is very important**

Paul’s charge to the **Ephesian elders.**

**Acts 20:28** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. **Be shepherds of the church of God,** which he bought with his own blood.

***"Shepherd"*** -***"feed"*** Greek:  "to tend as **a shepherd."** **Shepherd/teachers** – emphasis on **shepherds who teach.**

A work of **tending, feeding and caring.**

**Feeding** through **the Word - exercising pastoral care. Praying with people.**

**Acts 6:4** “we will give our attention to **prayer and the ministry of the word.”**

**Publicly** and from **house to house.**

**Acts 20:20-21** You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have **taught you publicly and from house to house.** I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

**Hebrews 13:17** **Keeping watch over souls** as those who must give and account.

**1 Peter 5:1-4** **To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings** who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them**—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, **but being examples to the flock.** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**Shepherd/teachers are elders with a particular ministry.**

**1 Timothy 5:17** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, **especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.**

**2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, **a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**

All elders must be “able to teach”, but not necessarily **share equally public Word ministry.**

**3. Shepherd/teachers “equip God’s people for works of service.”**

This is accomplished by a combination of **preaching and teaching.**

 **effective pastoral care.**

 **training in Christian service.**

The **evidence** of effective shepherding is a **strong and healthy flock.**

The effectiveness of pastors is not seen in the **size of the congregation.**

**Pastors and congregations may make the mistake of focussing too much on the preaching ministry of the pastor.**

**4. Shepherd/teachers are “fellow elders.”**

**Plurality and parity are the biblical norm for elders.**

Shepherd/teachers are **“fellow elders.”** (1 Peter 5:1)

The biblical pattern is plurality not **“one-man” ministry.**

**Acts 14:23** Paul and Barnabas **appointed elders for them in each church** and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

**You can only have plurality if the Lord gives more than elder to the church.**

**Parity/equality - elders are equal in authority.**

All elders are **accountable to each other** including shepherd/teachers

**5. Shepherd/teachers are called by God and are willing to “give themselves wholly to the work.”**

One indication of the call of God. Is a willingness to “give oneself wholly.”

**Not all elders** feel “called” to give themselves wholly to the work.

All elders do not **have the same gift.**

**6. Pastors may come from another congregation**

The **Jerusalem Church sent Barnabas** to Antioch

**Acts 11:22-24** News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and **they sent Barnabas to Antioch.** When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, **he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.** He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, & a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

**Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch.**

**Acts 11:25-26** Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and **when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.** So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul **met with the church & taught great numbers of people.** The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

**Paul left Titus in Crete.**

**Titus 1:5** The reason **I left you in Crete** was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

**7. Shepherd/teachers may receive financial support from the**

**congregation they serve.**

**1 Timothy 5:17-18** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are **worthy of double honour,** especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”**

Paul refers to **“double honour”** and **“wages”.** – **value,** price paid.

**Galatians 6:6** Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word **should share all good things with their instructor.**

**1 Corinthians 9:13-18** Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? **In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.** But I have not used any of these rights … that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and **so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.**

**8. Shepherd/teachers must be men of good Christian character.**

**1 Timothy 3:2-7** Now the overseer is **to be above reproach,** faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

**Pastors are men subject to the frailties of our human nature**

**Hebrews 5:1-4** Every high priest is **selected from among the people** and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. **He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.** This is **why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins,** as well as for the sins of the people. And no one takes this honour on himself, but **he receives it when called by God,** just as Aaron was.

**Peter’s failure and restoration.**

**John 21:15** When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, **“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”** “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, **“Feed my lambs.”**

**The elders in Ephesus**

**Acts 20:29-30** I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. **Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in** **order to draw away disciples after them.**

**Shepherd/teachers and all elders need the prayers of the Lord’s people.**

## EPHESIANS, Chapter 4, verses 11-13

**PASTORS – SHEPHERD/TEACHERS**

**Request: the scriptural basis for a church having a Pastor/Shepherd leader.**

**Summary:**

1. Shepherd/teachers are **gifts of the ascended Christ to his Church.**

2. Shepherd/teachers are elders whose **special work is preaching & teaching.**

3. Shepherds/teachers **“equip God’s people for works of service,** so that the body of Christ may be built up”

4. Shepherd/teachers are **“fellow elders.”** Plurality not “one-man” ministry.

5. Shepherd/teachers are **called by God** and are willing to **“give themselves wholly to the work.”**

6. Shepherd/teachers may **come from another congregation**.

7. Shepherd/teachers **may receive financial support** from the congregation they serve.

8. Shepherd/teachers must be **men of good Christian character.**

## 1. Shepherd/teachers are gifts of our ascended Lord to his Church

The church which he “**bought with his own blood.”**

**Acts 20: 28** Be shepherds of the church of God, **which he bought with his own blood.**

The church for which he has been appointed “**head over all things.”**

**Ephesians 1:22-23** And God placed all things under his feet and **appointed him to be head over everything for the church,** **which is his body,** the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The **gifts to his church of the ascended Lord.**

**Ephesians 4:7-13** But to **each one of us grace has been given** as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and **gave gifts to his people.”** **So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**Shepherd/teachers are appointed by the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 20:28** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock **of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.**