

Who is the Pastor?

Taking Responsibility

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Remit

“This seminar will consider the pastoral ministry in the local church. In particular it will consider the need for all of us to take personal responsibility for our own lives and for all of us to care for one another, while recognising that there will be those in the church who are specifically gifted in this ministry”.

Personal Responsibility

- In matters of salvation each of us must have our own experience with God.
- We are to believe for ourselves and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit for our lives.
- Acts 12:38 “Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins....”
- Acts 2:21 “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”.
- Revelation 22:17 “let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely”.

Personal Responsibility

- It is not only in matters of salvation that we need to take responsibility.
- In our discipleship we are to walk with the Lord.
- We each must cultivate our relationship with Him.
- John 21:21 “Peter, seeing him (John) said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”
- Romans 14:4 “Who are you to judge another’s servant”?
- Romans 14:12 “Each of us shall give account of himself to God”.

Personal Responsibility

- **The priesthood of all believers.**
- **The Reformation was largely responsible under God for re-introducing this truth.**
- **It was also a significant truth in the rise of the Brethren movement.**
- **This states that every man has access to God for himself and has no need for him to go to, or through, any intermediary e.g. a priest.**
- **We all stand equal in the sight of God with no division between priest and laity.**

Community

- **Paradoxically we are not merely individuals who take responsibility just for ourselves but we have been baptised into a body and we are thereby part of an organic community.**
- **The Jewish background to the Bible, and the salvation story, is strongly community and corporate in its expression.**
- **This is contrasted by our Greek history which is strongly individualistic.**
- **We need to remember this in our thinking and living.**

Community

- **Nearly all the pictures of the church in the N.T. are communal.**
- **Stones for a building.**
- **Members for a body.**
- **Soldiers for an army.**

Community

- **One another**
- **These two words occur over 40 times in the N.T.**
- **They express the joys and challenges of living in harmony together.**
- **They are a series of exhortations, commands, and injunctions to obey.**

Community

- **Injunctions.**
- **No judging.**
- **No lying.**
- **No partiality.**
- **No evil speaking.**
- **No holding a grudge.**
- **No going to law.**
- **Not puffed up.**
- **No provoking or envying.**

Community

- **Commands and exhortations.**
- **Be kindly affectioned, preferring, love, edify, likeminded, receive, admonish, salute with a holy kiss, care, serve, bear burdens, wait for, forbear, tenderhearted, forgiving, submitting, edify, comfort, teach, exhorting, consider, provoke (in a right way!), be hospitable, confess faults to, subject, fellowship, compassion and may be more!**

Community

- **These are all exhortations, commandments and injunctions that we are to keep.**
- **These must all be worked into our lives by obedience and practice.**
- **2 Peter 1:3-5 “as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness....by which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.... for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith”**

Community

- **The pastoral ministry of the church is done by all of it's members.**
- **Think of the number of people in our churches who care for people, including those who work with the children and youth, those who visit the sick in hospital, in their homes, those involved in outreach with the homeless and the needy, those who get alongside the lonely, the lost, the grieving, for those who clean the buildings, those who pray, those who send cards, make phone calls e.t.c.**

What is the responsibility of a pastor?

- **The word used for pastor is shepherd.**
- **Shepherds protect, defend, feed, love and lay down their lives for the sheep.**
- **Elders in an assembly are called to shepherd the flock.**
- **1 Peter 5:1-4 “shepherd the flock which is among you, serving as overseers, willingly, eagerly, not as lords over those entrusted to you, examples”.**
- **Acts 20:28 “all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers” - equality of being.**

What is the responsibility of a pastor?

- **All ministry and eldership in the N.T. is plural.**
- **The N.T. does not speak of the one man leadership position.**
- **There is no description in the N.T. of “The Pastor”.**
- **There is likely to be someone with a pastoral gift in a local church.**

What is the responsibility of a pastor?

- **Pastors should always point people to the Lord.**
- **Pastors should feed the flock.**
- **Pastors should protect the flock.**
- **Pastors should not hold on to the flock.**
- **Pastors should care for the flock.**
- **Pastors should travel with the individual sheep.**
- **Care should not seem to be top down but side by side.**

What is the responsibility of a pastor?

- **Pastors should be open, transparent and accountable.**
- **Pastors should be prepared to admit mistakes.**
- **Pastors should be servants to the flock.**
- **Pastors should be humble.**

What is the responsibility of a pastor?

- **Pastors should not allow themselves to be put on a pedestal.**
- **Jer 5:31 - “priests rule by their own power and My people love to have it so.”**
- **Joint responsibility of leaders and followers.**
- **Acts 17:11- the Bereans...”these were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”**

What a pastor should not do

- **A pastor should not own or control the flock; 2 Cor 1:24.**
- **The apostles - “not that we have dominion over your faith” (rule).**
- **Pastors should not manipulate the flock.**
- **Pastors should not draw people to themselves.**
- **Initially this may be necessary as ministry is incarnational.**
- **Sometimes people need to closely relate to a pastoral figure.**
- **Pastors must not think they can fix everything!**

Practical advice

- **Pastors should not be lonely and/or isolated.**
- **Immature and/or inexperienced.**
- **Without accountability structures.**

Practical advice

- **Empathy is the ability to perceive or sense what the other person is experiencing.**
- **Authentic ministry is serving (loving) a person so empathy is essential.**
- **There is a need for constant, faithful, consistent, sacrificial love.**

Practical advice

- **Love the people.**
- **Be available.**
- **Be consistent.**
- **Maintain confidentiality.**
- **Be impartial.**
- **Be patient.**
- **Be aware of safeguarding issues.**
- **Employ a chaperone or witness.**
- **Appropriate venue and time.**
- **HALT: hungry, angry, late and tired.**