

Church Administration and Polity



Bay Baptist Bible College
Instructor: Pastor Ryan Hayden

About Your Instructor

My name is Ryan Hayden, I have served as the pastor at Bible Baptist Church in Mattoon, Illinois for over twelve years. God has blessed me with a beautiful wife and five awesome kids - two of which made the trip with me. I look forward to teaching you this week and have been working on these lessons for several months.



Teaching Method

Throughout this course, you will be doing the following:

1. Read scripture (often out loud)
2. Answer questions about scripture
3. Make applications of scripture

I believe that there is no better way to learn than by doing. There will be periods where you are expected to quietly work and then share your answers.

Why A Notebook?

I have spent considerable time not just coming up with these lessons but giving them to you in this notebook form. I did this for three reasons:

1. To help you to follow along and to do your assignments.
2. So you can have this material as a reference when you are pastoring.
3. So that you can have this material to work through with your own students someday.

For the Future

If you go to the link below, you will be able to download the following:

- A blank version of this material, which you can print and share
- My notes for this course
- A list of supplemental resources you should read.

My goal in providing this is that you can use it with your own ministry students someday.

<https://pastoringcourse.pastorryanhayden.com>



1. The Pastor's Tools



1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool One: The Word of God

Objectives:

The goal of this lesson is to understand that the foundational tool of pastoral ministry is the Word of God.

1. As a pastor, _____ the word of God is your main task.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-4:1-2: What charge did Paul give to the young pastor Timothy?

The Word of God is inspired by _____.

Notice that 2 Timothy 3:16 says "all scripture is given by inspiration of God" Every word of the Bible is God-inspired.

Other passages teach us more about the nature of inspiration. Read 2 Peter 1:21

- What do you think the "prophecy" is referring to there?
- How, according to this verse, did the prophecy NOT come?
- How, according to this verse, did it come?

This doesn't just apply to the Old Testament. Peter addressed how the New Testament is also the word of God later in 2 Peter.

Read 2 Peter 3:2

What do you think "the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets" refers to?

What then do you think "the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior" refers to?

Look at 2 Peter 3:15-16:

Whose writings was Peter referring to?

What did Peter call them at the end of verse 17? What did Peter say would be the result of fighting against Paul's epistles?

_____ the Bible, Old and New Testaments, is equally inspired by God.

The Word of God is _____.

Look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17 again:

What does the word "profitable" mean? (Helpful, serviceable.)

What is the word of God profitable for?

Doctrine - _____

_____ - Proving things to be true, conviction

_____ - restoration to an upright state

Instruction in righteousness - _____ us to be what we ought to be.

When the word of God does it's job, what does it make us according to verse 17?

What do you think it means that the word of God makes us "thoroughly furnished unto all good works?"

This is also taught in 2 Peter 1. Consider verses 3-4:

What do you think it means that "his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness?"

According to 3b, how has God given us everything we need?

According to verse 4a, how do we get this knowledge?

Preaching the Word is our _____.

Back in 2 Timothy 4:1-2, what task did Paul give to the young pastor in verse 2?

When is the pastor to be ready to preach the word?

According to verse 2, what are the four parts of preaching the word and what do each mean?

- Reprove - to _____, find fault with (think like a lawyer making a case against a criminal)
- Rebuke - to censure, to _____
- _____ with longsuffering -admonish, beg, console, encourage
- Doctrine - _____

2. As a pastor, the word of God is your _____.

Nothing is spiritual that isn't also scriptural. —Clarence Sexton

Read Matthew 4:4,7,10 - what did Jesus use as His authority when fighting Satan?

In Matthew 5:17-18, what did Jesus say He came to do regarding the word of God?

What did He promise about the word of God in verse 18?

Look up the following verses:

- Matthew 12:3, 5
- Matthew 19:4
- Matthew 22:31
- Mark 12:10
- Mark 12:26

- Luke 6:3

What did Jesus constantly appeal to in His own preaching and ministry?
Look at Luke 24:27. When Jesus met the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, what did He use to explain God's purposes?

If Jesus, who is God, relied on the authority of the Bible for His preaching and teaching, shouldn't we?

Read Revelation 22:18-19 - what does that teach you about the seriousness and authority of the word of God.

Look at Hebrews 13:7

Who are "them that have the rule over you?"

Why should they be remembered?

What did the apostle Paul preach to the Thessalonians?

What did He not preach?

Why?

3. As a pastor, the word of God is your _____ and _____.

Look at Hebrews 4:12. What does "quick" mean in this verse?

Read Jeremiah 23:29, what kind of "rocks" do you think need to be broken in pieces by the word?

In Isaiah 55:11, what does God promise will happen with His word?

The word of God is our _____.

Consider this quote from Charles Spurgeon

The Word of God can take care of itself, and will do so if we preach it, and cease defending it. See you that lion. They have caged him for his preservation; shut him up behind iron bars to secure him from his foes! See how a band of armed men have gathered together to protect the lion. What a clatter they make with their swords and spears! These mighty men are intent upon defending a lion. O fools, and slow of heart! Open that door! Let the lord of the forest come forth free. Who will dare to encounter him? What does he want with your guardian care? Let the pure gospel go forth in all its lion-like majesty, and it will soon clear its own way and ease itself of its adversaries.

Further Reading:

The Greatest Fight in the World, by Charles Spurgeon

Biblical Preaching, by Haddon Robinson

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Two: Prayer

Objectives:

The goal of this lesson is to understand that the foundational tool of pastoral ministry is the Word of God.

The Importance of Prayer

Do not speak to men about God until you have spoken to God about men.—Scott Pauley

Read James 5:16.

What do you think it means to pray
"effectual fervent prayers"?

What does God say is the result of us
praying?

Charles Spurgeon's "Boiler Room"

A group of young ministers called on him one day to see the large preaching place. After showing them his massive sanctuary, Spurgeon offered to show them his "boiler room." The guests declined but the pastor insisted. Spurgeon led them to the basement. They found about 100 people in prayer. "This," Spurgeon said with a smile, "is my boiler room." Whenever Spurgeon was asked the secret of his ministry he always replied, "My people pray for me."

Here are some historic quotes on the importance of prayer to the ministry:

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." - J. Sidlow Baxter

The example of Jesus

Read Mark 1:35.

_____ did Jesus do?

_____ did Jesus do this?

Was this during a _____ season of Jesus' ministry (Look at verses 31 and 35)?

Look at these verses too and notice Jesus' spending time in prayer:

- Mark 6:46

- Luke 6:12

In Luke 11:1, what did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them?

If Jesus needed prayer for His ministry, how much more do we?

Other Bible examples

The example of Moses

Read Exodus 32:9-14 and answer the following questions:

- What was God's _____ for Israel?

- What did Moses do to _____ that?

- When Moses prayed, He argued with God, what was the main point of his _____?

- What else did Moses do in his _____ that we can do to prayer?

- What was the _____ of Moses' prayer?

Is this the only time Moses did this? Consider Numbers 14:11-13 and Deuteronomy 9:25-27 - what are the similarities of these prayers?

The example of Paul

Read Romans 1:9.

- What did Paul do for the _____?

- How _____ did Paul do this?

Look at the beginning of Paul's other epistles (Paul wrote Romans-Philemon) and list at least three other references where Paul prayed for people.

Prayer in Practice

Consider the following tips for praying as a church:

1. Have regular times of _____ for your ministry as a part of your service.
2. Pray for one _____ at a time.
3. Pray with your _____ regularly.
4. Consider a prayer meeting _____ services.
5. Refuse to be a _____ pastor.

"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." —F.B. Meyer

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Three: Your Family

Objectives:

The goal of this lesson is to understand that the foundational tool of pastoral ministry is the Word of God.

Your Family is your _____ ministry.

Read 1 Timothy 5:8, what does Paul say of those who do not take care of their own family?

Look at the following verses, what are some of the duties that you have to your family:

1. Ephesians 5:25
2. Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:7
3. Matthew 15:6

These are duties of every Christian man. We are to be examples to the flock in these areas.

Your family _____ you for ministry.

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-5 and Titus 1:5-9. List the two qualifications in both of these passages regarding a pastor's family:

- They must be the _____ of one wife (a _____ husband of one wife)
- They must have _____ children who are under _____.

What does 1 Timothy 3:5 say about a pastor's family in relation to the church?

Think about the following quote from Pastor Kenny Kykendall, would you say this is what this passage is teaching?

> *The preacher is a candidate for spiritual leadership in the church only because of his spiritual leadership in the home.*

If you want to be a pastor, your first responsibility is to be a good husband and dad. If you don't get this right, _____ else will matter.

Your family must not be _____ for your ministry.

Consider the example of two guys named John that both lived in the 1700s.

John Wesley

For all of the good John Wesley did, his marriage life was a _____. He left no children and left a _____ example.

Now, consider one of his contemporaries:

Jonathan Edwards

Even if Edwards never pastored a church, never wrote a book and no one knew his name - you would have a hard time finding anyone in the world who had _____ of an impact than he did just with his family.

Edwards said:

"Family education and order are some of the chief means of grace; if these are duly maintained, all the means of grace are likely to prosper and become effectual."

DO NOT NEGLECT YOUR FAMILY.

**Your family can be a great _____
for your ministry.**

They can _____ in your ministry.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:15

What did Paul say Stephanas' family was
addicted to in 1 Corinthians 16:15?

They should _____ as an example.

Your family can _____ the way and be an
example of serving Jesus together - that is a
_____ thing and may be _____
powerful in the long run than any _____
you preach.

Further Reading

The Private Life of the Preacher - Kenny Kykendall

The Pastor's Family - Brian Croft

Marriage to a Difficult Man - Elizabeth Dodds

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Four: The Worship Service

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

1. One of your key jobs as a pastor is _____ and _____ weekly worship services.

What the _____ says about church services.

2. The church as we know it kicked off at Pentecost. Read Acts 2:41-42 and notice the following elements of the early church:

- A membership list
- Baptism
- Bible teaching
- Fellowship
- The Lord's Supper
- Prayer

3. In Colossians 3:16, what else do we see was a part of the early church worship service?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 16:2 and notice the following:

- When did the church meet?
- What was a part of their weekly services?

5. In 1 Timothy 4:13 we see three more parts of the worship service the pastor is to give attention to:

- Reading - _____

- Exhortation - _____

- Doctrine - _____

Putting these things together, we can see the following things in the early church in the Bible:

- They meet together on Sunday
- They have a time of public prayer
- They sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
- They take up an offering
- They have public reading of the scripture
- They have teaching and preaching
- They observe the ordinances of the Lord's supper and baptism
- They spend time eating and fellowshiping together.

Church services in _____.

1. Consider this excerpt from Justin Martyr (100-150AD)

And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things, Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying, Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons. And those who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows, and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds, and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need. But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world, and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared

to His apostles and disciples, He taught them those things, which we have submitted for your consideration.

In this paragraph we see:

- They meet _____ on Sunday
- They have a time of public _____
- They have public _____ of the scripture
- They have _____ and preaching
- They take up an _____
- They observe the _____ of the Lord's supper and baptism
- They spend time eating and _____ together.

2. From the 300s to the 1500s churches were dominated and polluted by the Roman Catholics.

3. Starting in the 1500s, there was the Protestant Reformation which recovered a lot of the lost things found in the Bible and early church about the Bible.

The _____ of the church service.

There are three purposes of the church service:

A. Worship

1. Read John 4:23. What is God seeking from His people?
2. What is a definition of worship?

B. Edification

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Five: Hospitality

Objectives:

The student should understand the essential role that hospitality plays in a pastor's life and ministry.

Hospitality is a _____ tool. There is something about eating with people and sharing your life with them that turns strangers into friends.

Hospitality and preachers.

Look with me at 1 Timothy 3:1-2

It's also in Titus 1:7-8.

I want you to notice that one of the biblical qualifications for being a pastor is being "_____ to hospitality" and "a _____ of hospitality."

Now, this is a _____. This isn't _____. If you want to be a pastor - you have to be hospitable.

I've heard it said many times:

A shepherd should _____ like the sheep.

But it's not just for pastors. It's an expected part of being a _____.

Hospitality in the church

Let's look at some other scriptures:

Read Hebrews 13:1-2, Romans 12:10-13, and 1 Peter 4:8-9.

Notice that in each of these passages its telling Christians to exercise _____ in the church and then, in explaining how to use love in the church it says "use hospitality" - if you want to love people, open your _____ to them.

Love is spelled T-I-M-E.

That's true in your home and it's also true with hospitality. You show people you love them by spending _____ with them.

People aren't looking for a friendly church, people are looking for friends.

Have _____ with people regularly.

Have meals with people who _____ in your church.

Have meals with your _____ family.

Utilize your _____ and your family to have meals.

Tips of Hospitality:

- Plan ahead.
- Make a list.
- Start with your neighbors.
- Don't forget the holiday season. (Difficult for some people.)
- Collect and file simple inexpensive recipe ideas.
- Be interested in people's lives.
- Be creative in activities for guests.
- Teach on hospitality in the church.
- Pray that God would give you joy in serving.

When you bring people into your home, you can show them what a _____ Christian home looks like.

Further Reading

The Hospitality Commands - Alexander Strauch

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Six: Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

Baptists believe in two _____: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Ordinance: a _____ given to the church by Christ, practiced in the book of Acts, and expounded upon and defended in the epistles. —From Jason Keith Allen

Baptism

Baptism in the Bible

Who commanded baptism in Matthew 28:19?

According to Acts 2:41, how what was the result of Peter's sermon at pentecost?

Read Acts 8:36-38 and answer the following questions:

- What was Phillips qualification for the Eunuch being baptized?
- In what was Phillip baptized?

From these passages we conclude the following:

1. Baptism is for believers _____ salvation, not for _____ and not for salvation.
2. Baptism is by _____, not by _____.

The Purposes of Baptism

Baptism has four purposes:

It is a sign.

When we are baptized, we are proclaiming to the world that we are now _____ Jesus.

Baptism is where faith goes public. —Bobby Jamieson

It is a symbol.

When we are baptized, we are _____ our unity to Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Read Colossians 3:1-3, and answer the following questions:

1. According to verse 3, what two things happened to us at Salvation?
2. According to verse 1, what is our current state?

*"Professedly, the baptized is no longer of the world; he is buried to it, and he rises again to new life. No symbol could be more significant. In the immersion of the believer, there seems to me to be a wondrous setting forth of the burial of the Christian to all the world in the burial of Christ Jesus."
— Charles Spurgeon*

It is a step of obedience.

When we are baptized, we are _____ Christ's command (Matthew 28:19), and following in the footsteps of believers throughout history.

*"I did not fulfill the outward ordinance to join a party, and to become a Baptist, but to be a Christian after the apostolic fashion; for they, when they believed, were baptized."
— Charles Spurgeon*

It is a start to church membership.

When we are baptized, we are united with the church in _____. (Acts 2:41)

Concerns About Baptism

Baptizing Young Children

You should be _____ about baptizing young children, because by baptizing them before they are truly saved, you could be giving them _____ assurance.

When a presbyterian (wrongly) baptizes babies, at least they are doing it anticipating the day when a child will be converted. When we baptists baptize children, we are testifying that they are already saved. — Jason Keith Allen

We shouldn't put an _____ limit on baptism. (Let the little children come.) But we should counsel parents to hold off with very young children until they are _____ of their salvation.

"We do not contend for baptism of adults; we contend for the baptism of believers. Show us a child however young, who believes in Christ, and we gladly accept him." — Charles Spurgeon

Alien Baptism

What if someone wants to join your church who has never been scripturally baptized? Consider the following circumstances:

- They were saved in a church that practices _____ baptism or sprinkling.
- They were saved _____ being baptized by immersion as a young child.
- They were saved but never followed Christ in believers _____.

In those cases you cannot allow them to join the church until they accept believer's baptism by _____.

Encourage them to study the New Testament for themselves and see what it says about Baptism.

How to Baptize

1. Have a pre-baptism meeting

In this meeting, do the following:

- Make sure they are _____.

- Make sure they _____ the four purposes of Baptism.
- Make sure they are _____ for baptism.
 - Tell them what clothes to bring.
 - Go over the details of where and when they will be baptized.
- _____ them how they will stand in the water and how you will baptize them.
- Encourage them to _____ family and friends.

2. On the day of baptism

Follow this script:

(Baptizer) "Have you repented of your sins and have you trusted Christ for your salvation?"

(Candidate) "I have"

(Baptizer) "Will you continue to walk in faithfulness and obedience to Christ?"

(Candidate) "I will"

(Baptizer) "I now baptize you my brother/ sister in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost"

Begin to dunk them

(Baptizer) "Buried with Christ in baptism"

Raise them out of the water

(Baptizer) "Raised to walk in newness of life."

Baptismal candidate exits the water.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper in the Bible

The Lord's Supper is found in Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-23 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-24 together and answer the following questions:

1. What are the two parts of the Lord's Supper?
2. What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?
3. Jesus said "This is my body" - but does this have to be literal? Did Jesus ever use non-literal language about Himself? (see John 10:7, John 15:1)
4. Roman Catholics, Lutheran and others believe Jesus is literally present during the Lord's supper, and some believe the bread and wine literally become Jesus body. What would you say to them?

The Purpose of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's supper has five main purposes:

1. Reflection on _____ sacrifice
2. Proclamation of His _____ work.
3. Examination of our _____.
4. Celebration of the forgiveness of _____.
5. Unification of the _____.

Concerns about the Lord's Supper

- Who?
 - *Open Communion* - _____ believers can participate.
 - *Closed communion* - only church _____ can participate.
 - *Close* - all believers who are members in good standing of a church of like _____ can participate.

When?

Consider the following ways of taking the Lord's supper (no timeline is prescribed in the Bible) - discuss benefits and drawbacks of each.

- Weekly Observance
- Monthly Observance
- Quarterly Observance
- Annual Observance

How to give the Lord's Supper

Follow this timeline & script:

- Weeks before, announce the Lord's Supper for the church.
- On the day of, prepare (or have deacons prepare) the bread and grape juice before the observance.
- At the beginning of the observance, ask the deacons or ushers to come forward and then have an instrumentalist play a song as the bread is passed out.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:24.
- Eat the bread, motioning for the church to eat it too.
- As another song plays, have the deacons pass out the grape juice.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:25.
- Drink the juice, motioning for the church to drink it too.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:26
- Sing a hymn and conclude the service.

Further Reading

Letters to My Students on Pastoring - Jason Keith Allen

Spurgeon the Pastor - Geoffrey Chang

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Seven: Church Membership

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

Membership in the Bible

There is no passage in the Bible that _____ church membership.
However, it is clearly _____ in the Bible.

Read Hebrews 13:7 and 1 Timothy 5:17 and answer these questions:

- Without church membership, which leaders would an individual Christian obey and submit to?
- Without church membership, which people would a pastor give an account to God for?

In Acts 2:41 and 47, it says people were "added to the church" - what does this assume? (

Read Acts 6:1-6 and notice the following:

1. There was a _____ of disciples that was tracked.
2. There was an _____ daily ministration.
3. There was an _____ of the first deacons.

Read 1 Corinthians 5 and answer the following questions:

1. What was going on in the church at Corinth?
2. What did Paul have against the church?

3. What was Paul's final advice in verse 13?

4. How would this be possible without a clear list of who is and isn't in a local church?

The church is a body from which you can be excluded and in which, therefore, you can clearly be included. — Mark Dever

Membership in History

Throughout history, there are three prevailing models of church membership:

The Church-State Model

i.e. I'm a member of this church because I'm a _____ of this town or country.

- The government sets up official churches.
- Everyone is a member.
- Your "tithes" are paid via taxes.
- You have no say in who your pastor is.

The Covenantal Model

i.e. I'm a member of this church because I was _____ into it.

- Babies are baptized into the church
- Family members are church members by default.
- The church has obvious non-saved members
- The Lord's Supper is open to all.

The Baptist Model

i.e. I'm a part of this church because I joined it after _____.

Baptists believe that you join a church a few ways:

1. By salvation and baptism.
2. By letter from your previous church and by vote of the congregation.

Read Ephesians 1;1 and Colossians 1:2 and answer the following:

- Who was Paul writing to?
- What did Paul call them?
- Is it safe to assume that Paul believed that churches were made up of believers?

The Purposes of Membership

1. Accountability

Church membership brings you under the authority of the church and makes you _____ to the other church members.

As a church member, you can be _____ by the church (1 Corinthians 5.)

As a church member, you have _____ to obey and follow. (Hebrews 13, 1 Tim 5)

2. Evangelism and Mission

The local church is by nature a missions organization. — Mark Dever

The mission is given to the church.

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

- Who was Jesus speaking to?
- Jesus mission included going, baptizing and teaching, what organization does those things?
- Is it safe to assume that the great commission then, was given to churches?

The church sends out missionaries and evangelists.

Read Acts 13:1-3 and answer the following questions:

- Where were Paul and Barnabas at the beginning of this chapter?
- What work did God have for Paul and Barnabas?
- What do you think is meant by "laid their hands on them"?
- Who sent Paul and Barnabas away to do their work?

The local church trains missionaries

Read Ephesians 4:11-12 and answer the following questions:

- Who gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors/teachers?
- Who did He give them to?
- What are the three purposes of these officers?
- Whose job is it to train the church "for the work of the ministry?"

What is the pattern for ministry training given to us in 2 Timothy 2:2?

The local church supports missionaries

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 together and answer the following questions:

1. What did the churches of Macedonia do for Paul and his missionary team?
2. Were these wealthy churches?
3. What did Paul expect the Corinthian church to do?

3. Edifying

The New Testament includes many "_____" commands.

Read the following verses and consider this question: "Without church membership, who is our 'one another?'"

- Romans 12:10, 14:13, 14:19, 15:14
- 1 Corinthians 12:25
- Galatians 5:13, 6:2
- Colossians 3:13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

4. The glory of God.

Read Matthew 5:14-16 and answer the following questions:

- Who is "the light of the world?"
- What do you think Jesus had in mind when He called us "A city on an hill?"
- How, according to verse 16, is God glorified in the lives of Christians?

Consider Ephesians 3:10, what is God using to "make known" His "manifold wisdom?"

The Practice of Church Membership

1. Maintain a list of everyone who is a church member.

You need to keep an official list of all active church members and keep it in a safe place.

2. Have the members vote on taking in new church members.

People join the church either by:

- _____ from another church
- by _____

3. Have a church membership process.

Consider training for new members that includes:

- A summary of our church's _____.

- An overview of our church's _____.

- A summary of our church's _____ (our church covenant.)

- A summary of how our church is _____.

After the family has gone through this membership class and had a meeting with the pastor - they will be brought before the church for membership.

4. Prune the church membership list of non-attenders.

In your church constitution you should have some kind of clear statement that says that if you don't attend the services for so long, then you will be removed as a member. It could be two months, it could be one month - you decide on that. Before you remove a person as a member, you need to let them know that they are in danger of being removed for nonattendance.

The reasons for doing this are:

- Accountability for the member.
- Protection for the church. (You don't want a bunch of "members" showing up for a meeting who haven't been to church in three years.)

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Eight: Covenant and Constitution

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

A Church Covenant is a document that sets agreed upon _____ for church members.

A Church Constitution is a document that _____ how the church is governed.

Covenants and the Constitution in the Bible

Read the following passages:

- Matthew 18:17-18
- 1 Corinthians 5:12-13
- 1 Corinthians 14:40

The Church Covenant and Church Constitution are just two _____ for accomplishing unified, and orderly church government.

Covenants and Constitution in History

During the middle ages, almost everyone (we know of) was part of a _____ church. There were definitely underground churches, but we know nothing about them.

During the protestant reformation, when churches started splitting from the state church and thus _____ themselves, they immediately started writing statements of faith and church covenants.

For example, Church covenants exist in English separatist churches going all the way back to the 1570s and the first known English Baptist, John Smyth, wrote about how he considered church covenants^[^1] to be an _____ part of baptist church government.

From the 1700s through the 1900s, it was typical in Baptist churches to have a church covenant with signatures prominently displayed and in the 1900s most Baptist _____ included a printed version of the church covenant. For whatever reason, in the late 1900s, using a church covenant fell out of use, but there has been a renewed interest in them.

Church Constitutions don't have quite as much _____. In the U.S. many states require that a church adopt a constitution to have official status as a non-profit organization. We'll talk about why I think they are important later.

The Purpose of the Church Covenant

The word "covenant" just means "_____." The church covenant is just a _____ that describes what the church members are agreeing to do.

Here is an example of a church covenant:

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other. (*Jn 6:63; 16:7-11; 1:12; 1 Thess 2:13; Acts 2:41; 8:38; Matt 28:19; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Acts 2:42*)

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Eph 4:1-3*)

We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church, exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require. (*Rom 12:10, 16:17-18; Gal 6:1-2; Matt 18:15-17; Jas 5:19-20; Col 3:16; Heb 3:12-13; 1 Thess 5:11; 1 Cor 5*)

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others. (*Heb 10:23-25; Eph 6:18; 1 Thess 5:17, 25*)

We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends. (*Deut 6:1-12; 11:18-20; Matt 6:6; Eph 6:4; Mk 5:19; Lk 5:19; Matt 5:16; Eph 5:15*)

We will rejoice at each others' happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows. (*Rom 12:15; Gal 6:2*)

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. (*Eph 5:15; Tit 2:12; Rom 6:4; 1 Thess 4:7; 1 Pet 1:13-25*)

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. (*Eph 2:21-22; Heb 10:25; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor 11:24-34; Rom 16:17; 2 Thess 3:6; 1 Cor 5; Acts 2:42; 2 Jn 1:9-11; Matt 10:10; Gal 6:6; Mal 3:8-10; Acts 11:29; 2 Cor 8:1-5, Lk 24:46-48; Acts 1:8*)

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. (*Acts 18:27-28; Rom 16:1-2; 1 Cor 15:58; Col 3:23; Heb 10:24-25*)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. (*2 Cor 13:14*)

Notice a few things about this:

1. This is written from the standpoint of individual church _____.

2. This contains a bunch of _____.

3. Each promise is based on _____.

4. This is an easy way for us to remember our _____ as church members.

The Practice of the Church Covenant

If you decide to have a church covenant - you should _____ it.

Here are some ways you can use your church covenant:

1. You can go over it with member candidates and make sure they are in _____ with it.

2. You can give a _____ copy to each member.

3. You can have new members _____ it. (We don't, but many churches do.)

4. You can _____ it together during church business meetings or before taking the Lord's Supper.

5. You can print it out and put it on the wall of your _____ or put it in your hymnals (if you have them.)

The Purpose of the Church Constitution

Church Constitutions are a bit more _____. They serve as the legal bylaws for your church and govern things like:

- Who is qualified to be a pastor or deacon?

- What specific authorities does the pastor have?

- What specific authorities do the deacons have?

- What things must go before a congregational vote?

- If the church hires someone, who are they accountable to?

- How are leaders chosen?

- What are the guidelines for leaders?

- Who handles the finances?

- How can members be removed?

- What happens to the church's property if it dissolves?

- What happens when the church is without a pastor?

Having this in writing helps _____ the church from abusive and errant leaders and gives them recourse should things go awry.

The Church Constitution can also be a huge help to you as a pastor in knowing how to do things like:

- How often do we have members meetings?

- How do we choose deacons?

- Who is responsible for keeping records?
etc.

The Practice of the Church Constitution

I would not recommend writing a church constitution on your _____, the missionaries who started the church probably will leave you with one that your church can _____ and _____ as time goes on.

In the States, it's common to use a template provided by a _____ organization like Christian Law Association and then adapt it to an _____ church's needs.

If you do have a constitution, then you should _____ it and make sure new members are familiar with it. You should also use it.

Because printing out a church constitution would take a lot of paper, I'm linking to ours as a sample here:

*[https://
constitution.biblebaptistmattoon.org](https://constitution.biblebaptistmattoon.org)*

Footnotes

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_covenant#:~:text=The%20concept%20of%20the%20church,Christian%20congregation%20separated%20from%20the
e

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Nine: Faithful Deacons

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

The term "deacon" or "deacons" appears in only _____ places in the Bible (1 Timothy 3, Philippians 1:1), but the same greek word appears 31 times in the New Testament and is usually translated as "minister" (i.e. Matthew 20:26) or "servant" (i.e. Mark 9:35.)

Read Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and answer the following questions:

1. Is it obvious that "deacon" is an office in the church?
2. In both cases it appears in the scripture, which comes first elders/ bishops or deacons?
3. What do you think that might mean?
4. Compare the qualifications for deacon with the qualifications for an elder in 1 Timothy 3, what differences do you notice?

Acts 6:1-7 is usually considered to be the first calling of deacons, read it and answer the following questions:

1. What was the problem in verse 1?

2. Had the church experienced problems like that before?

3. What bigger problem could have been experienced by the problem (look at verse 2)?

4. Who chose the seven men (verse 3)?

5. What qualifications did the men have to have (verse 3)?

6. Is there anything interesting to note about the seven names found in verse 5?

7. Were these seven men officially ordained for their work (verse 6)?

8. What was the result of this first calling of deacons (Verse 7)?

From these passages you can learn the following truths about deacons:

1. Deacons are an important _____ in the church.

2. Deacons must be strong Christian _____ with strong Christian _____.

3. Deacons are _____ to pastors.

4. Deacons are _____ by the pastors and congregation to solve church problems.

Considering all of that, here is a definition of deacons I've come up with:

Deacons are servants that are officially deputized by the pastor and the church to solve church problems, preserve church unity, serve the needy, and enable the pastors to focus on the spiritual matters of the church.

Deacons in History

1. Laurence of Rome

2. Apostolic Constitutions

"They are to be doers of good works, exercising a general supervision day and night, neither scorning the poor nor respecting the person of the rich; they must ascertain who are in distress and not exclude them from a share in church funds, compelling also the well-to-do to put money aside for good works."

3. Catholicism/Protestant Reformation

4. Nazi Germany

The Purpose of Deacons

1. Meeting _____ Needs

Consider Acts 6:1 again.

The first deacons were selected because a _____ revealed a sensitive fault line in the church, and the deacons job was to _____ that tension so that the elders could continue in their important work of _____ undistracted.

Deacons then should be people who meet needs _____ (they aren't looking for credit), at their own _____ (they sacrifice) and who do so with _____ (they don't have to be told what to do).

2. Protecting and Promoting Church Unity

Another thing we can learn from the Acts account of the first deacons is that they were selected to help _____ the unity of the church.

Deacons then must not be _____. They must be flexible, humble and gentle. They have to serve as the human shock _____ for the church.

You don't want people serving as deacons who are unhappy with your church. The deacons should never be the ones who complain the loudest or jar the church with their actions or attitudes. Quite the opposite!... You don't want to nominate deacons who don't recognize the importance of the ministry of preaching and teaching, but people who are anxious to protect it. More broadly, you want the most supportive people in the church to serve as the deacons. SO when you are considering who might serve as a deacon, look for people with gifts of encouragement. — Mark Dever

3. Serving and Supporting the Ministry of the Elders

Deacons are best _____ as "formal _____ to the pastors."

The word _____ can express agency at the behest of a superior.

The idea is that of a _____ carrying out an assignment on a superior's behalf and having full _____ to execute the superior's delegated task.

The structure of 1 Timothy 3 suggests that deacons are both _____ with and _____ to elders.

If the elders say "let's drive to Pittsburgh" it's not up to the deacons to say "no, let's drive to Philadelphia instead." They can legitimately come back and say "Our engine won't get us to Pittsburgh. Perhaps we should reconsider." That's very helpful. But in general their job is to support the destination set by the elders. —Mark Dever

- Pastors/Elders _____ ministry.

- Deacons _____ ministry.

- The congregation _____ ministry.

Problems with Deacons

Problem 1: Deacons who shouldn't be deacons.

Deacons are like spouses. A _____ deacon, like a good wife, can be an amazing blessing. A _____ deacon, like a bad wife, can be like a "continual dropping on a very rainy day". (Proverbs 27:15)

Read 1 Timothy 5:22 - why do you think Paul warned Timothy against laying hands on men "suddenly?"

Typically, the following types of people are put up as candidates for deacons:

- People with handyman skills.
- People with business skills and leadership.
- People on the road to being a pastor.
- People with the loudest voices in the congregation.

But none of these things makes a person a good deacon. More than anything you are looking for men with spiritual _____.

Deacons can be a tremendous source of _____, but they can also be a _____.

Before you lay hands on someone as a _____, make sure they are well seasoned _____ man.

Problem 2: Deacons who see themselves as the bosses.

-Deacons are always seen _____ elders/bishops in the Bible.

-They have a _____ role.

-But in many Baptists churches, deacons think they _____ the church and will _____ the leadership of the pastor.

If you are taking over an _____ church, there isn't much you can do about that besides slowly bring on _____ deacons.

If you are starting a church, you can be deliberate and _____ when you bring on deacons.

-Teach them their job
_____.

-Teach them their _____ from the Bible and be really _____ before you bring on new deacons.

The Practice of Deacons

Here are five tips for _____ deacons:

1. When you bring on deacons, consider having a “_____” of a few years, and then insisting the deacon take a _____ off before considering.

2. When new deacons are _____, take the opportunity to _____ on the role of deacons.

3. Consider giving deacons a _____ role.

(i.e. Deacon of transportation, Deacon of benevolence, deacon in charge on building maintenance, deacon of finance, etc.)

4. Have deacons _____ on an as needed basis.

5. When you have a deacons meeting, start and close with _____ and have a clear _____.

1. The Tools of Pastoral Ministry

Tool Ten: The Fellowship of Other Pastors

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

Pastor's Fellowships in the Bible

Throughout the New Testament we see God's men _____ together.

In Matthew 28:16-20, who was the great commission given to?

Why do you think Christ chose 11 men?

Why not just give the commission to Peter?

Read the following passages:

- Acts 9:26-27
- Acts 12:25
- Acts 13:1
- Acts 15:22
- Galatians 2:9
- Colossians 1:7

Based on these (and other verses) what is clear about the _____ in the early church?

Purpose of Pastor's Fellowships

Being a pastor can be an extremely _____ calling. Being a leader can mean that sometimes you are _____ with people and feel all alone.

- Normal church people will not understand the _____ you are under.
- Normal church people will not appreciate the _____ you make for your calling.
- Normal church people will not share your _____ in church, preaching, etc.
- Normal church people will not _____ the effects of the ministry on your family.

You need the _____ and _____ of other pastors.

Encouragement

Other pastors will _____ for you. They will tell you to keep going and not to _____.

They will help you share your _____.

They will be a reminder that you aren't in this _____.

Accountability

Battlefield Memoirs

Other pastors can also _____
you when you are _____,
_____ or taking it _____.

They can spur you to _____.

Knowing they are _____ for
you and in a similar situation will keep you
from _____ sometime.

Practice of Pastor's Fellowships

Weekly Pastor's Prayer Fellowship

Monthly Pastor's Prayer Fellowship

Minor Disagreements

Encouragement

Potential Problems with Pastor's Fellowships

1. Ego

Pastor's fellowships can descend into just
_____ off and _____.

You have to be on _____ against
this and _____ it when you see it.

2. Bad Influence

No two pastors in the world _____
on everything.

There will always be _____ issues
of disagreement.

**But I would not fellowship with people
who preach another _____ or
who _____ the scriptures and you
have to be careful who you allow to
_____ you.**

2. The Pastor's Tasks



This section is heavily adapted from the book
The Pastor's Ministry by Brian Croft.

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task One: Guard the Truth

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

1. What to do: _____ the Truth

A. The _____ is the power of God.

According to John 8:32 - what does the truth do?

When you consider the second half of Proverbs 29:18 it becomes clear that people aren't perishing because leaders don't have a clear _____, but rather because they don't have a _____ of what?

According to Isaiah 5:13, and Hosea 6:4 - what did the prophets _____ the problems of the people on?

Read Romans 1:13-17 and answer the following questions:

1. What _____ was Paul writing Romans to address?
2. Why did Paul feel a _____?
3. To whom was he _____?
4. What is the _____ of God to salvation?
5. What reveals the _____ of God?

B. The truth is under attack.

Attacking the _____ is Satan's favorite tactic.

Read Genesis 3:1, how did Satan begin his _____ of Eve?

Read Matthew 4:6, what did Satan use in his _____ of Christ?

Is it fair to say that one of Satan's favorite tactics is _____ and _____ the word of God?

Consider the following New Testament epistles and the attacks on truth they were written to correct:

- 1 Corinthians - people _____ spiritual gifts.
- 2 Corinthians - people _____ the apostleship of Paul.
- Galatians - people teaching that keeping the _____ was part of Salvation.
- Colossians - people teaching a form of _____ worship and ceremonial _____ keeping and denying Christ.
- 1 John - people _____ that Christians sin
- 2 John - people denying the _____ of Christ

- 2 Peter and Jude - false teachers in the church _____ people for money.

Attacking the _____ still happens today.

List of ten ways Satan is currently attacking the truth.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

C. God has chosen pastors to be the _____ of truth.

Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14 and Titus 1:9 and answer the following questions:

1. _____ were Timothy and Titus?
2. What does it mean to "_____"? _____
3. What are _____ to "hold fast?"

4. What is meant by keeping the thing which is _____ unto thee? (2 Tim 3:14)

5. What is _____ for us to "keep" it?

6. What other _____ are given for us to "hold fast" the Word?

Pastors must hold to the truth

The doctrines and beliefs of the church, _____ in the Scriptures, are the lifeblood of the church.

If we fail to _____ the truth, the good thing of Gods' word, _____ else will matter.

- According to John 17:17 - what is the _____?

- According to 2 Timothy 2:2 - what is God's plan for _____ on the truth?

- According to John 14:6 - what Person _____ is the Truth?

Pastors must refute those who contradict the truth

Read Titus 1:9-11 and answer the following questions:

- Who are the _____?
- What must we _____ to the gainsayers?
- If we don't do it, what will _____ do?

- How do we _____ and _____ the gainsayers?

Read Romans 16:17. What two things must we do to them who cause doctrinal divisions?

What did Paul say about people who twist the gospel in Galatians 1:7-8?

2. How to do it:

A. _____ the whole Bible

- Preach through whole books of the Bible.
- Do not _____ over hard things.
- Keep a good _____ in your preaching:
 - Old vs. New Testament
 - Didactic _____ (Like Romans and Ephesians) vs Narrative (Stories)
- Suggestion:
 - AM - Gospel or NT Epistle,
 - PM - Practical or Old Testament,
 - Midweek - Stories of the Bible
- Keep Jesus the _____ of your preaching.
- Do not _____ that people know the gospel

B. _____ the purity of your church

- Vet people thoroughly before they _____ the church.

- Make sure they are _____ believers

- Make sure they _____ the same things.

- _____ the front door of your church.

- Have a _____ list.

- _____ with every potential members and make sure they are _____ before they join your church.

- Vet people even more _____ before they can _____ in your church. (James 3:1, 1 Timothy 5:22)

- Vet the _____ you use.

- _____ teachers don't just show up at your door, they show up on the _____ and through _____.

- Be careful about the _____ you use and recommend.

C. Study

- Study the _____

You cannot defend the truth if you do not know it (2 Tim. 2:15, Col. 4:6, 1 Peter 3:15)

- Study church _____

- Study your _____

D. Be on the lookout for _____
teachers in the church

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-18, what was Paul
telling Timothy to be careful of in the
church?

Sometimes taking care of the sheep
means _____ off wolves. Look out
for _____ wolves in your
ministry.

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Two: Preach the Word

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

1. What to do: _____ the Word

Lets start by reading 2 Timothy 4:1-2 and answering some questions:

1. Why do you think Paul charged Timothy "before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge?"
2. What was Timothy charged to do?
3. What does it mean to be "instant?"
4. What do you think it means to be "in season and out of season?"
5. What are the five ways we are to "preach the word?"

The key idea here is for us to _____.

The call to preach is the call to prepare.

If you become a pastor, you will _____ not be preparing sermons.

Preaching will become the _____ in your life.

You are going to be like a human _____ with a hole in it. There will always be water coming out of the hole and so you are going to have to continually put _____ into it.

Let's look at some examples of preaching the word in scripture:

A. _____ in the Old Testament

Read the story of Ezekiel preaching in Ezekiel 37:1-10 and answer the following questions:

- Who was Ezekiel told to prophecy to?
- What was Ezekiel to preach to them?
- What was the result of Ezekiel preaching the word to these dead bones?

We can draw a clear parallel between Ezekiel's job and our own. We are called to _____ the word to men who are _____ in their trespasses in sins, so that the Spirit can breathe life into them and they can be put back together and live for Him.

Another Old Testament story that teaches us a lot about preaching is found in Nehemiah 8, which records the rediscovery and reading of the word in Jerusalem after the exile. Read verses 1-8 and answer the following questions:

- What was Ezra reading?
- Who was Ezra preaching to?
- Did the people listen?
- What was the result of reading the word?
- Verse 8, is a great summary of biblical preaching, what three parts does it lay out?

B. The preaching of _____

Read Matthew 4:17 and Mark 1:38, what was Jesus ministry characterized by?

What was the basis of most of Jesus teaching and preaching? (see Matthew 12:3; 12:5; 19:4; 22:31, many others)

In Mark 16:15, what did Jesus command us to do?

C. The preaching of the early _____.

Look at Peter's _____ on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-39) and consider:

- What did Peter use as the basis of his sermon?
- What was the subject of Peter's sermon?

- What happened after Peter preached his sermon?

- What did Peter invite them to do?

Preaching the gospel became a _____ of the early church.

How does Acts 5:42 summarize the work of the church at Jerusalem?

D. The preaching _____ in the epistles.

Read Romans 10:14-15 and consider these questions:

- Can the gospel go forward without preachers?
- What does God think of faithful preachers?
- What should we be faithfully preaching?

Let's consider 1 Timothy 4:13-16:

- What is the pastor to give attention to?
- What do you think is meant by reading?
- What do you think that is meant by exhortation?
- What do you think is meant by doctrine?
- What do you think Timothy's spiritual gift was?
- What could be the significance of "laying on of hands"?

- Why is it important that other brothers recognize your spiritual gifting?

- How could he neglect it?
How could you be in danger of neglecting your spiritual gift?

- What things do you think Timothy was supposed to meditate on?

- Verse 15 says he was to "give himself wholly to them", what are some ways a pastor could not give himself wholly to their spiritual calling?

- What two things must the preacher take heed to?

2. How to _____ it

Preach the whole Bible

Acts 20:27, 1 Timothy 3:16-17

We have a duty to _____ the whole Bible and the best way to preach the whole Bible is to preach _____ sermons.

What are expository sermons?

Expository preaching is that mode of Christian preaching that takes as its central purpose the presentation and application of the text of the Bible . . . all other issues and concerns are subordinated to the central task of presenting the biblical text. — Albert Mohler

The difference between expository sermons and non-expository sermons is a matter of _____.

-If your goal is to say your _____ you are not preaching an expository message.

-If your goal is to _____ the meaning of the _____ - you are preaching an expository message.

The best course of action for pastoral preaching is to regularly preach _____ books of the Bible. This doesn't mean there is no place for _____ sermons or special sermons.

Why expository sermons?

1. Expository sermons _____ the authority, power, and sufficiency of scripture.

2. Expository sermons _____ our people how to read and _____ their Bibles.

3. Expository sermons help keep a pastor _____ on preaching God's words and not _____ ideas.

4. Expository sermons remove the _____ of "finding a sermon" every week.

Preach your own material

It's never been easier to _____
other preacher's material:

- You can _____ to great sermons on any text on Sermonaudio.com
- You can copy a sermon from a _____.
- You can copy a sermon from _____.
- You can buy _____ sermon outlines.
- You can even have _____ write you a sermon (and it's pretty good.)

You _____ do this!

1. When we preach other people's material we are _____. We are deceiving people that someone else's material as your own. How can we be preachers of the _____ and engage in a lie? (John 8:44)

2. When we preach other people's material we are presenting the Lord a _____ that cost us _____. (2 Samuel 24:24)

3. When we preach other people's material we are robbing ourself. (1 Timothy 4:15)

4. When we preach other people's material we are _____ our congregation. Remember, they aren't listening to a _____, they are listening to a _____.

Preach to your people

1. You have to _____ the text to the people in your _____.

2. You have to keep in mind your people's ability to _____ and _____ what you are teaching.

The mind cannot absorb what the seat cannot endure. —Jack Scallions

Know how many "minutes good" you are, and don't preach one minute longer. —Josh Howerton

Preach to yourself

Remember that the _____ must "take heed unto thyself." (1 Timothy 4:16)

Before you preach the word to others, make sure you are deeply _____ by it yourself.

Additional Reading

Biblical Preaching - Haddon Robinson

Preaching and Preaching - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Lectures to My Students - Charles Spurgeon

Letters to My Students: Volume 1 - Jason Keith Allen

Preaching that Connects - Mark Galli

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Three: Pray for the Flock

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

Every pastor knows that they are called to _____ for their flock, but most pastors _____ to do it.

More than any other aspect of a pastor's calling, prayer is the most difficult to maintain. —Brian Croft

- People will know if you don't _____ for a sermon.
- People will know if you skip out on _____ sick people.
- People will obviously know if you miss a _____.
- No one will know if you don't _____.

True shepherds love the flock, they love them when present with them and they love the flock when present with no one but God. One of the ways they show their love is by bringing their needs - known and unknown, tangible and spiritual, individual and congregational - to Jesus the Good Shepherd in prayer. —Don Whitney

The examples in the Old Testament

Read the following passages and list which leader was interceding and who they were interceding for.

- Genesis 18:22-33
- Exodus 32:9-14

- Job 42:10

- Isaiah 53:12

Read and consider 1 Samuel 12:23.

What action did Samuel say would be against the LORD?

The examples in the New Testament

Christ

According to Mark 1:35 how did Jesus spend His mornings during his busiest season of ministry?

What aspect of Christ's life impressed the disciples enough that they asked Him to teach it to them? (See Luke 11:1)

Who did Jesus pray for on the eve of His crucifixion in John 17:9?

Did Christ pray at all on the cross? Who did He pray for? (See Luke 23:24)

Paul

Read Colossians 1:9-11 and Philippians 1:9-11 - what types of things did Paul pray for the churches he started?

Following biblical examples, what should we pray more for: people's physical needs or their spiritual needs?

Other examples

In Acts 6:2-4 the apostles refused to let a potentially church destroying conflict keep them from their main priorities. What did they list as their main priorities?

What did Paul say of Epaphras (the pastor of the Colossian church) in Colossians 4:12?

Read James 5:14-18 and consider the following:

- When people were sick, who were they to go to for prayer?
- What example did James give us of a man praying and God moving?
- According to James, was Elijah extraordinary or ordinary?

2. How to do it

Pray Deliberately

Read Hebrews 13:17, who must we give an account for?

If we must give an account for specific people, shouldn't we pray _____ and _____ for them?

Tip: Create a monthly prayer guide

- Get a list of your members
- Divide that list by 28
- Assign each group to a day on the calendar

- When you pray for people, send them a note, ask them for prayer requests or pay them a visit.

- On extra days, pray for missionaries or other pastors.

- Get your whole family involved in prayer.

You cannot just _____ onto praying for everyone, you must be _____ about it.

Pray with others

Schedule weekly and monthly prayer times to pray with others.

- Every Tuesday, I meet with other pastors in town for a forty-five minute prayer time.

- Schedule a time each week to meet with your church _____ to just pray.

- Consider having a monthly leaders meeting and spending time in prayer.

Pray publicly

As a pastor, the way you pray in church is a _____ for how the people pray privately, so give thought to how you pray publicly.

Consider the following tips:

1. Don't let your public prayers become _____ and generic.

2. Pray for specific _____ in the church and specific _____. Pray for spiritual needs and _____. Don't _____ people - but show them how to pray.

3. Pray for _____ efforts in your community.

4. Pray for other _____ and pastors.

5. Pray for _____ supported by your church.

"When pastors neglect to pray for real and pressing needs during the church hour, they miss a huge opportunity to model for others how the church should pray for each other."
—Brian Croft

Additional Reading

Pray for the Flock by Brian Croft and Ryan Fullerton

The Pastor's Ministry by Brian Croft

The Pastor in Prayer by Charles Spurgeon
(a book of his pastoral prayers)

The Private Life of the Preacher by Kenny Kykendall

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Four: Set and Example

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

What to do: Set An _____

The New Testament makes it very clear that pastors are to be an _____ for their flocks.

Commands to be an example

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3 and consider:

1. Who is this being _____ to?
2. Why do you think Peter says _____ need to do their job "not by constraint" and "of a ready mind?"
3. What do you think "God's heritage" means in verse 3?
4. What does it mean to be a "Lord over" God's _____?
5. What should we be instead?
6. Which is easier, ruling by _____ or ruling by _____?
7. Why?

Consider 1 Timothy 4:12 and answer:

1. Why would people be tempted to despise Timothy?
2. Do people still despise youth today?
3. How was Timothy to answer this despising?
4. Which do you think "let no man" means?
 - 1) "don't allow them" by _____ or
 - 2) "don't allow them" by giving them no _____ to despise.
5. Briefly explain each of the six areas Timothy was to be an example:
 1. word
 2. conversation
 3. charity
 4. spirit
 5. faith
 6. purity

Think about Titus 2:7-8 and answer:

1. What is the purpose of a _____?
2. In what _____ of life should we be a pattern for others?
3. Paul lists two things were we _____ need to be pattern, what are they?

Commands to follow pastoral examples

What did Paul tell the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 11:1?

As an example, can you say the same thing to those who follow you?

As an example, do you have the opportunity to lead people astray?

Consider 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 and answer:

1. What did Paul say the Thessalonians should _____?
2. In what specific areas was he an _____ for that church?
3. Why is it important that pastors not be _____ freeloaders?
4. Have pastors got that _____ before?
5. How can you help your flock with your example of a _____ ethic and _____ management?

Read Hebrews 13:7 and answer:

1. Who are we _____ to remember?
2. More than just _____ to the word of God from them, what are we to _____?
3. "Conversation" means "_____." How can people follow our lifestyle and our faith if they don't see it?

How to do it

Honor your ministry mentors

1. You need examples in the ministry. If God has given them to you, take the time to show them _____.
2. Write them a note. Give them a call. If people have _____ in you, honor them.

Spend time with your people.

1. You cannot be an example for people who you never spend _____ with. (2 Timothy 3:9)
2. Make spending time with people a part of your weekly _____:
 1. _____ breakfast or lunch with people
 2. _____ them at work or school
 3. Do their _____ with them
 4. Have them in your _____

Don't make excuses

Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 to "let no man despise thy youth." This is _____ and broadened in Titus 2:15.

You have to live the kind of life that people don't _____. Don't take the culture's excuses:

- "Oh, he's just _____."
- "That's how all young people ____."
- "He wasn't _____."
- "It's how his _____ are."

Rise above the _____ and determine to be an example. Determine to give no one a legitimate _____ to look down on you.

Acknowledge your weakness

You are not sinless, do not _____ to be.

However people describe you, they should be able to describe you as a _____ Christian.

You do not have to be _____ and it doesn't actually help when you are - you have to be growing, and for people to see you grow you have to be _____ enough to own up to your _____.

People think that if they acknowledge their _____, that they will lose people's respect, but the _____ is true - you give people the ability to _____ with you in a unique and special way.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10

- What was Paul's _____ in verse 6?
- Did Paul _____ out of weakness or out of strength?
- Why do you think it was important for Paul to share his _____ with the Corinthians?

Encourage people to imitate you

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1 - could you make such a statement?

As a pastor, people are scripturally commanded to "follow your faith" (Hebrews 13:7) - as egotistical as it may sound, you have to _____ them to do it.

Pastors should be so aware of their own sins, struggles and weaknesses that they tremble at the thought of ever saying to their people "Do what I do. Say what I say. Imitate my faith." Yet this is exactly what the Bible calls pastors to do. —Bryan Croft

If someone were to come into your church and say "How should a Christian man treat his wife" your church members out to be able to point to you and say "Watch him. He's my pastor."

Figure out what area of your life people shouldn't _____, and work to _____ in that area.

You have an opportunity to model what it means to be a good _____, a good _____, a good _____ and a faithful _____.

This might be some of your most _____ work as a pastor, and it is a _____ work.

It is the message you _____ over decades of faithfulness.

Further Reading

Steady Strength by Cary Schmidt

The Pastor's Ministry by Bryan Croft

The Private Life of the Preacher by Kenny Kykendall

Type to enter text

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Five: Visit the Sick

Objectives:

The student should understand the place church services will play in his life as a pastor, the biblical and historical reasons for church services, the three goals of church services, and how to organize church services.

What to do: visit the sick

Before the fall

Read Genesis 1:31:

- How did God _____ creation?
- Originally, was there any _____?
- What would it be like to live in a world with _____ sickness?
- What _____ sickness in? (Genesis 3:17-19)

Consider how Revelation 21:4 describes heaven. What will not be there?

Old Testament examples

Sickness is sometimes the _____ of sin. Read 2 Samuel 12:14-18.

- Who is in _____ of when we live or die?
- Did this keep David from _____ for the boy's health?

- What was David _____ in after the boy died? (see verse 23)

Read 2 Chronicles 16:12-13.

- What happened to King Asa?
- What did Asa do _____?
- Does this mean it is wrong to see _____?

Read 1 Kings 17:17-24:

- Who was _____ in this story?
- What did the lady do when this _____?
- What did _____ do?
- What did _____ do?
- What was the result of this _____?
- What does this teach us about the _____ of miracles?

In Ezekiel 34:4 the prophet Ezekiel is speaking to the spiritual leaders of his day. What _____ did he have with them in the first part of the verse?

New Testament Examples

Matthew 4:24 summarizes Jesus' ministry. What did He spend much _____ doing?

Glance through the gospels and list at least six times Jesus healed the sick.

Read Matthew 25:41-46.

- What does Jesus _____ of those who follow Him according to verse 43.

- When we visit the sick, who are we actually doing _____ to? (45)

In James 5:14 what does the Bible say the sick should do?

How to do it

Ask Questions

1. We must be deliberate in our conversations when we visit the sick.
2. We must ask the kind of questions will eventually lead to spiritual conversation.

Example progression:

1. Ask the _____ about themselves, their condition, and their recommended treatment.
2. Ask about their family, specifically who has been _____ for them.

3. Then try to turn the conversation to a _____ matter. You can do this by asking how you can _____ for them.

4. Always turn them to _____ in Christ.

Read Scripture

What does Hebrews 4:12 say about the power of the word?

"Even when patients are very weak, we should read the word, quote it, repeat so as to impress it, emphasize and explain its rich instructions....to read or quote passages of Scripture will frequently be a great relief to the pastor when the case is so serious and pressing that, of himself, he is utterly at a loss what to say. It is well therefore that ministers have a large store of passages suitable for the sick laid up in memory and ready for use." — Thomas Murphy (19th century pastor)

Passages of comfort

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 28
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 62
- Psalm 145
- Hebrews 4:14-16

Short gospel passages

- John 11:25-26
- Romans 5:6-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Ephesians 2:1-10

Passages on suffering

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
- James 1:2-4
- 1 Peter 1:6-7
- 1 Peter 4:12-19

Passages on the hope of eternity with Christ

- John 10:27-30
- John 14:1-3
- Philippians 1:21-23
- 1 Peter 1:3-5

Pray the gospel

What do you do when someone asks you to pray over someone on their _____ that you know probably isn't saved?

The expectation will be that you pray something like "Lord, receive this person" but that would be _____.

Pray a prayer that _____ the gospel as her and everyone else's only hope.

When the gospel is prayed, the gospel is heard.

Leave a note

Often when visiting a hospital, the person will be either busy or _____. In these cases, always leave a note.

A note lets them know you took the _____ to seek them out and that you are _____ for them. They can _____ the note again and again.

You can also leave a book or a tract for them to read.

Touch with discernment

Appropriate _____ touch can communicate love and care that words cannot.

Sometimes the sick can feel like they have leprosy and that no one wants to be _____ them. Doing something like holding their _____ communicates your love and care.

Be careful with those of the _____ sex. If in _____, don't touch them.

Look them in the eye

Often the sick are in an embarrassing state of _____. Looking them in the eye shows _____ for them during an embarrassing time.

_____ eye contact communicates disinterest, boredom, and presumed tension. These are _____ in a hospital room.

Prepare your heart

Make sure you visit out of _____, not just out of _____.

If the patient thinks we are just _____ off a list, our visit can do more _____ than good.

Prepare your heart for _____ situations.

Know what you are going to say, what scriptures you are going to use and be ready to pray _____ you get into these situations.

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Six: Comfort the Grieving

Read the following scriptures:

- Genesis 53:3
- Numbers 20:29
- Deuteronomy 34:8

What is the common thread in these verses?

Read John 11:17-35.

- How long was Lazarus in the grave before Jesus showed up?
- Can we assume that Lazarus had been dead longer than that?
- What were Mary and Martha doing?
- What did Martha say to Jesus?
- What was Jesus' response? (verse 35)
- Did Jesus know the end result of that day?
- Why did He weep then?
- What does that tell us about the power of grief?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

- What was the Thessalonians ignorant of?

- How did Paul refer to the dead?

- What was the purpose of Paul writing this?

How the pastor helps with mourning

Typically, a pastor has to do a _____ AND do everything else in their _____ and typically, you only have a day or two to prepare.

Sometimes, you may be asked to do funerals for people that you _____ even know.

Every funeral is unique but they are also an awesome opportunity to preach the gospel to a _____ audience.

Before the funeral

I ask the family members to meet with me a day or two before the funeral to ask them _____ about the deceased.

I usually try to get as many of them to this meeting as possible (I've met with as many as 12 people and as few as 2.)

This meeting has three purposes:

1. To confirm the _____ of the funeral.
2. To gather _____ and information about the deceased to help prepare for the funeral.
3. To give the family a time to _____ these stories together.

In my experience, the family almost always enjoys this. Attached is a handout I use for these meetings.

I also do two things in this meeting:

1. I _____ with the family.
2. I let the family know I will be preaching the _____ during the funeral.

During the funeral

This is based on funerals in my culture and may be very different your culture. Adapt it to you.

On the day of the funeral, you should try to arrive _____. Few things are more embarrassing than being _____ to a funeral. (It's happened to me.)

During the funeral, stay _____ key.

Remember, this funeral is not about you, it is about the _____ and their family and friends. Try to stay out of the way until you are _____.

Preach a _____ message. Fifteen minutes is long enough for a funeral message.

Try to remember the four _____ of a funeral:

1. _____ the dead.
2. _____ the grieving.
3. Consider our _____ life in light of the reality of death.
4. _____ for what happens after death.

Do not preach _____ people into heaven but do not _____ the family either. Just preach the _____.

You will probably want to develop several _____ sermons that you can use at a funeral, and then _____ them for the individual.

My favorite funeral text is _____.

- I point out how _____ it is that Solomon says it's better to go to a funeral than a party.

- I ask them what the _____ of a funeral is?

- I talk about the _____ and their life (using the stories I gathered)

- I talk about how the funeral should _____ their life and they way they live (the living shall lay it to his heart)

- I talk about how they are going to die and _____ God and preach the gospel (for that is the end of all men.)

After the funeral

Remember that after a funeral the family is still grieving. It's wise to give special _____ to the family and check in on them often in the weeks and months _____ a loss.

Remember that grieving can last for a _____ time. Be patient and _____ with people.

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Seven: Care for the Widows

Read 1 Timothy 5:3

When is the last time you heard someone talk about the _____ of caring for widows?

Widows are largely _____ and forgotten about in the church today.

Our culture (in America) is infatuated with _____.

God's Desire

A widow is a married woman whose husband has died and who remains unmarried. In the Bible mourning, weeping and a sense of desolation, disillusionment, bitterness, loneliness and helplessness were often experienced by a widow following the death of her spouse. The loss of a husband was often a social and economic tragedy. Falling into debt and poverty sometimes, but not always, resulted once the main source of her financial support had been removed. Becoming a widow made her vulnerable. She was frequently placed alongside similar people such as the stranger (the landless immigrant) and the fatherless (e.g. Exodus 22:21-22, Deut. 24:17-21). Her plight would be aggravated if she had no able-bodied children to help her work the land of her former husband. Because of these changed circumstances, widows were often marginalized. therefore it is not surprising to find in ancient Israel that they were regarded as being in need of special protection.
—Austin Walker

1. What to do

Read Psalms 68:5

The story of Ruth shows God's _____ for two widows (Ruth and Naomi).

Read the following verses:

-Jeremiah 49:11

-Deuteronomy 24:19

-Acts 6:1-7

When people teach this pastor, they commonly _____ the actual task these spirit filled men were assigned.

They were make sure widows were receiving _____ care.

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16

Paul wanted Timothy to see that caring for widows was still an _____ priority in the church.

Read James 1:27

2. How to do it

Many pastors are not _____ of the intense waves of _____ and even _____ a widow can experience in the various stages of grief.

Minister the Word

Show them from the Bible that it is God's _____ to care for her.

Ask _____ about how she is doing.

Five areas of passages:

1. Passages of _____ especially for widows

1. Psalm 23, 28, 46, 62, 68:5, 113
2. Jeremiah 49:11
3. Hebrews 4:14-16

2. Passages that show Gods' _____ care for widows

1. Deut 16:11
2. Ruth 1-4
3. 1 Kings 17
4. Psalm 146:9
5. Lamentations 1;1-2,
6. Luke 7:12-13
7. Acts 6:1-7
8. 1 Timothy 5:1-10

3. Succinct _____ passages

1. John 11:25-26
2. Romans 5:6-11
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
4. Ephesians 2:1-10

4. Passages dealing with the _____ of suffering for a believer

1. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
2. James 1:2-4

3. 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-19

5. Passages related to the _____ of eternity with Christ

1. John 10:27-30; 14:1-3
2. Philippians 1:21-23
3. 1 Peter 1:3-5

Listen and Learn

You can learn a lot from _____ widows, but only if you listen to them.

Listen

- Ask her about her _____.
- Allow her to tell stories of her _____.
- Ask her how she met her _____ and how she knew she should marry him.
- Ask about various _____ in life.
- Ask about how they made a _____.
- Ask about things that are important in her _____.
- Ask about her _____ journey.
- Ask about how she _____ to Jesus.
- Ask her about those who have _____ her.

Listening is a _____ that allows her to sense the _____ God places on her life and to _____ all that the Lord has done for her.

It provides a _____ avenue for her to continue the _____ process and a chance for you to learn about her life and _____ her better.

Learn

Few moments in life provide the _____ and perspective that come when a person experiences _____ loss.

As you ask questions and listen, you will learn about

- the _____ God has placed in your care.
- _____ about her life, her joy and struggles
- learn about her _____
- learn about your _____ life as well.

Many Christian widows have experienced suffering and have a _____ through strong faith in Jesus Christ, giving them a _____ outlook on life and a wealth of wisdom and faith.

Provide a gift

Everyone loves receiving a _____. A gift says "I love and appreciate you."

Think of gifts that _____ minister to her.

-A _____ gift

Addresses a _____ need, something a widow needs so she can persevere in her _____ life.

Older people may need help _____ their property.

You can help them around the _____.

Provide _____ to and company at doctors appointments.

-An _____ gift

Find out what _____ she loved to make for herself and her children.

_____ a treat or buy one.

Bring her favorite _____ or tea.

Find a way to _____ her day and remind her she is not forgotten.

-A _____ gift.

The most meaningful gifts I have received are the ones _____ just for me.

Find out what kinds of _____ gifts her husband used to give her.

Ministering grace to a widow with a gift is about more than just the gift, it is about the message you communicate with the gift.

Involve your wife and family

Don't assume you need to minister _____. Don't assume you _____ minister alone.

Your wife will play an _____ role in ministering to the women who are in crisis. She can _____ and encourage other women in the church to minister in a similar way.

_____ widows appreciate care from anyone in the church, but they especially appreciate care from _____ women.

These interactions can provide a place for the _____ we find in Titus 2:3-4.

When it comes to younger widows, a pastor's wife can be a special _____, a _____, and a wise _____ partner.

You need to be _____ in involving your wives to help you avoid becoming _____ in dangerous situations as you spend time ministering to _____ women struggling with emotional and spiritual challenges brought on by their loss.

Your wife can help you care for widows while remaining above _____.

Never underestimate the impact _____ can have in the lives of others as well.

Children are a _____ from God, but they are also a gift to our church _____ if we are willing to share them.

Your children _____ with widows in the church can be good for _____ and good for the _____.

Adopt a widow during the holidays

Holidays can be one of the greatest _____, but for widows they can be a time of greatest _____ as they are painfully aware of their loss - so invite them in to _____ the holiday with you.

We have had widows in our church share with our family during Thanksgiving and _____.

You can also have a special _____ for the widows.

_____ will clamor for your time and attention, widows will usually _____, you have to be _____ in your care for them.

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Eight: Confront Sin

Read Matthew 18:15-17 and John 8:32.

Sometimes the truth will _____ someone, but after it hurts them, will make them _____.

A faithful parent doesn't just say what a child _____ to hear, but what a child _____ to hear.

_____ of God's flock are no different than faithful _____.

We must be willing to say the _____ things the flock needs to be mature and healthy.

Few pastors look _____ to confronting sin in others, but it is still our pastoral duty.

We confront sin for the love of _____, for the _____ sinning, and for our _____.

We are not called to confront any and every sin we _____ in the life of another person.

We are not called to _____ others.

But there will be times we have to _____ sin in the church.

Biblical areas for pastoral intervention

There are a few ways to approach the _____, depending on the particular circumstances.

Unrepentant Sin

Read Matthew 18:15-17

- What _____ is Jesus addressing in this passage?
- What should be the first _____ taken?
- If this is _____ received, is any other action needed?
- What should you do if this is _____ well received?
- What is the _____ of this?
- If this second step is _____ well received, what are you to do?
- If the person will not hear the _____, what is the next step?
- What do you think Jesus meant by "let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a _____?"

Steps to Confront Sin

Step 1: If they sin against you, admonish them in _____.

Step 2: If they don't listen, take two or three _____ with you.

Step 3: If they don't listen, tell it to the _____

Step 4: If they _____ to listen even to the church, treat them like a pagan or a tax collector.

The goal is to _____ your brother or sister in Christ back to a God-honoring lifestyle.

Allowing a person to live in open _____ against God without warning them is not _____.

A lack of discipline

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

- What is the church _____ to do?

- What _____ case of "acting disorderly" did Paul have in mind?

- What was Paul's _____ to these people?

- What should the church do if they don't _____ well to this command?

Paul is speaking about those in the church who are taking _____ of the generosity of the church.

Paul commands the church to confront the sin of _____ and _____ of the church.

Divisiveness

Read Titus 3:9-11

- What should be _____ in the church according to verse 9?

When people are _____ in the church, we warn them once, then a second time, then cut ties with them.

These people are warped and sinful and self-_____.

Public and Scandalous Sin

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Sometimes the church needs to meet and immediately _____ a person from formal membership. Why? Because their sin effects the corporate _____ of the church.

There is a major difference between how Jesus speaks in Matthew 18 and how Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians 5.

Matthew speaks of a _____ sin against another Christian, 1 Corinthians 5 addresses a sinful _____ that has turned into a public spectacle.

Pastoral Motivations for Confronting Sin

Confront sin to be faithful to scripture.

Quite often, confronting sin doesn't lead to the _____ we want. We still have to do it to be _____ to God's word.

Confront sin for the church's _____.

1 Corinthians 5:6 teaches us that sin, when left _____, effects the whole church.

Confront sin for the _____ of Christ's name

Another problem dealt with in 1 Corinthians 5 is the testimony of the church.

Why should they have been filled with grief? Because it was "reported commonly" - because the church was besmirching the name of _____.

Confront sin for the sake of the person you are confronting

The main passages about confronting sin in the Bible all share a concern for the person being confronted:

- In Matthew 18:15 - what happens if the person hears your and responds _____?

- In 1 Corinthians 5:5 - why does a person need to be "delivered unto _____ for the destruction of the flesh?"

Facing the judgment of God is a far _____ thing than being _____ from the formal fellowship of a the church.

Discipline that leads to a loss of _____ may have earthly, temporal consequences, but if may eventually lead a person to turn back to _____.

2. The Tasks of Pastoral Ministry

Task Nine: Encourage the Weaker Sheep

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Pastors must make room in their lives and ministries for people who can be _____ and _____.

There are models of ministry and advices that say you only invest your life in someone if it leads to a _____ result for church growth.

Difficult people can:

- _____ you
- Cause you to question the _____ of God
- Cause you to question the _____ of others

These people are called the _____.

Our job as pastors is to get as many people to heaven in the best condition possible. — Al Martin

Read Isaiah 40:1-2

Paul calls these _____ people "the weak". The weak are:

- Found in _____ church
- _____ swayed to turn away from their beliefs
- Grow quickly _____

- Don't seem to experience _____ from sin

- Live with a _____ conscience

- _____ the gospel and show the presence of the Spirit in their lives, and listen to the instruction of God's word, but have a _____ time internalizing and applying truth.

The heart of God towards the weak

Weakness, pain, and hopelessness all exist because of _____. God redeems the brokenness that results from sin _____ Jesus Christ.

In Israel

Psalm 82:1-4

Isaiah 35:1-4

Jesus' compassion

Jesus was constantly _____ with people with sickness, diseases, physical and mental weaknesses and disheartened temperaments.

He constantly _____ them compassion.

Displayed in His teaching

Matthew 5:1-10

Jesus started His _____ ministry by talking about the poor, the mournful and the meek.

Matthew 19:30

Mark 10:44

Displayed in His interactions

Look at this summary:

Matthew 15:29-31

In the apostles

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Romans 14:1-3

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

The goal is not to _____ oneself right at the _____ of others.

It is to _____ those who are weaker in the faith, both to _____ the love of Christ to them and to _____ the unifying power of the gospel to a watching world.

Shepherding the sheep

As a pastor, you need to look out for several types of sheep in your congregation:

- _____ sheep need to be encouraged to be brought back in.

- Sickly and hurt sheep need _____.

- _____ sheep need you to step in and referee.

- _____ sheep attack the shepherd and the shepherd needs to _____ his own heart.

- _____ sheep need encouragement and special care.

Finding balance

How do you _____ with the weaker brethren and not _____ frustrated, dispirited and impatient?

Four characteristics of working with "problem people:"

Encourage with patience

Whenever you are _____ to discouragement by how LONG something is taking ask yourself:

"How does my timeline for change contrast with God's timeline?"

People don't grow at the _____ rate. Some people take a _____ time to grow and others grow rather _____. We have to be patient.

Encourage with hope

It can be discouraging to work with the _____ people on the _____ problems again and again.

These kinds of problems can be _____.

We have to keep our eyes on the _____ of the gospel.

God still has the _____ to fix a marriage, to overcome drug or pornography addictions. But our _____ is in God and His gospel, not in our _____.

Encourage with help from others

The ministry can be _____ and demanding and cause us to want to _____ hope.

Sometimes, when caring for a weaker brother gets too taxing, we need to invite others in to _____ us serve.

Don't deceive yourself into thinking that you are the _____ person in your church who can help someone. Don't get a _____ complex.

You could assign a _____ brother to a _____ brother. When it starts to drain on him, _____ to someone else.

Encourage with compassion

Read Jude 22

Sometimes God can _____ frustrating weaker people to show you your _____ to grow in compassion.

Encourage with hope

2 Corinthians 12:10