

CARING FOR THE BRIDE

defining biblical roles in the local church

Sermon Notes – January 21st, 2018

1 Timothy 5:1-7 - “The Role of the Pastors”

1. Pastors _____ (vs. _____)

2. Pastors _____ (vs. _____)

3. Pastors _____ (vs. _____)

Sermon Follow Up Guide

Memory Verse:

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. - Hebrews 13:17

Prayer: Help our pastors to set an example, teach God’s Word, and care for the church well.

Reading Plan:

Monday:	1 Timothy 2	Friday:	Titus 1
Tuesday:	1 Timothy 3	Saturday:	Titus 2
Wednesday:	1 Timothy 4	Sunday:	1 Timothy 1
Thursday:	1 Timothy 5		

Song for the Week:

Strong God by Meredith Andrews

Consider:

What are some synonyms for “pastor” in the New Testament?
Why is it important for pastors to set an example for the church and the world?
Do pastors have to be able to teach? Why or why not?
In what ways are pastors called to care for the church in Scripture?
In what manner are pastors called to care for the church in Scripture?
Do pastors have unique access to God? Do pastors have unique responsibility to God?
Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. How does this passage clarify the role of the pastors?

Application:

I commit to live in a way that reflects Christ’s design for me as a member of the local church.
I commit to pray for the lives and ministries of the pastors of our church.

Coming Next Week

1 Timothy 3:8-13 - “The Role of the Deacons”

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1 Timothy 3:1-7
"The Role of Pastors"

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Star Wars is an interesting cultural study. Not too long ago you had to be a real nerd to enjoy Star Wars. I remember when I was in high school, Star Wars was kind of a niche franchise. You basically understood that if someone had seen the original trilogy it meant that they probably didn't go outside much. But right now, Star Wars is everywhere. It's niche is now the mainstream.

If you saw the latest movie, you know the names Poe and Leia. Poe is a young, hot headed, fighter pilot. Leia is a mature, thoughtful, commander. There's a couple of times in the movie that Leia has to teach and guide Poe and help him understand his role as a leader in her army.

In some ways this is the relationship we walk into as we read 1 Timothy. Paul is the mature, thoughtful, apostle. Timothy is the young, eager, pastor. Paul saw the value of investing in Timothy, and we know from NT writing that Paul did ministry with him. He also wrote him a few letters to teach and guide Timothy and help him understand his role as a leader in the church.

1 Timothy is the 1st of 2 of Paul's pastoral epistles to Timothy meant to encourage and instruct. As we pick up in the 3rd chapter, Paul wants Timothy to understand the qualifications for the offices of the church. If it's important to Timothy, it's important to us. And, today, while looking at the qualifications, we'll see the role of pastors in church government. Let's look to God's Word!

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (ESV)

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. **2** Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

In verse 1 we learn 3 things worth noting:

1: Pursuing ministry is a desire that God gives. In our church culture, it's possible that we over spiritualize the call to ministry. "Do you feel called to ministry?" is a common question. But 1 Timothy 3 makes it less about a feeling and more about a desire -an aspiration.

2: The office named is that of an overseer. Aren't we talking about the role of pastor? In the NT pastors are referred to as pastors, overseers, shepherds, bishops, and elders. These are all names for the same office. Baptists have used several of these names throughout our history.¹

3. It is a noble task. Why? Hebrews 13:17 helps us understand when it says, "Obey your leaders (context helps us understand this is talking about pastors²) and submit to them, for they are **keeping watch over your souls**, as **those who will have to give an account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." It's eternal work with eternal consequences.

Looking on to verse 2 of this passage and really on through verse 7, Paul clearly teaches that the role of pastors in church government is to set an example. We basically get a 6 verse list of expectations for the life of a pastor. Look at it as a list instead of a paragraph:

- above reproach
- husband of one wife
- sober-minded
- self-controlled
- respectable
- hospitable
- able to teach
- not a drunkard
- gentle
- not quarrelsome
- not a lover of money
- manage household well
- not a new believer
- well thought of

When you look through this list, there's nothing extraordinary about it. It's common faithfulness in living for Christ. Hebrews 13:7 says to imitate the pastor's faith. And that's the primary role of the pastor in church government. Setting the example of common faithfulness in living for Christ in public and private- in all areas. Last week we saw the congregation's primary role was to live for Christ and the same is true of the congregation's leaders. Pastors are called to lead in that life of surrender. Pastors are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit and live a transformed life as an example to the congregation.

Considering these qualifications, as a part of the role of pastors in church government, we must understand the extreme importance God places on the character of the men He places in leadership. This is not to say that the other elements of a pastor's role don't matter, just that there is an incredibly high importance placed on their character.

Almost as if to convince us, God gave us another passage dedicated just to the qualifications of pastors: turn to Titus 1:5-10

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— **6** if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. **7** For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/biblical-eldership-part-1a>

² **7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. - Hebrews 13:7

not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, **8** but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. **9** He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

You'll notice how similar these passages are. Verse 9 connects so well with 1 Timothy 3:2.

Titus tells pastors to hold firm the to word and 1 Timothy tells pastors they should be "able to teach." So pastors must be able to teach. Pastors Teach.

In church government, teaching is instrumental. Teaching is instrumental in any government, actually. In America, we spend almost \$650 Billion on elementary, middle, and high school education a year.³ And that's not just so we can send kids to college to rack up crazy student loans. It's so that our country can educate and indoctrinate people about the essential values and information that will help American continue to operate.

In our churches, we know what is important by what is taught. We know that knowing Christ and making Him known is important, because that is what we teach. We know unity is important because that's what we teach. We know daily bible reading and prayer are important because that's what we teach. We know family worship is important because that's what we teach. We know the Jesus living a life we couldn't live, dying a death we deserved, and rising again so that we can have eternal life with Him is important because that's what we teach. As pastors teach, we are naturally shepherding and leading the congregation. Paul makes that connection to leading and preaching. In 1 Timothy 5:

1 Timothy 5:17 says, " Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."

Jonathan Leeman makes a helpful distinction on pastoral leadership and teaching. He says pastors "possess an authority of counsel, not command." He says, "those who possess an authority of counsel, like husbands and elders, must continually work to teach and to woo. A godly wife and church member, of course, will require little wooing, because each recognizes God's call to submit to husband or pastor."⁴

How do pastors counsel members to evangelize, to unify, to grow in their spiritual disciplines? Not by beating them over the head with a bat. But by teaching God's Word with perseverance.

1 Peter 5 sheds clarifying light on teaching as a role in church government:

1 Peter 5:2-3

"...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."

Pastor shepherd God's flock without compulsion or domineering by setting the example of the Christian life as we see in verse 3. But also through the "wooing" that Leeman talks about. Pastors are called to exercise oversight without compulsion. Pastoral teaching should help the congregation see the value in the direction and vision and purpose they believe the Chief Shepherd has for the church.

³ <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=66>

⁴ Understanding the Congregation's Authority by Jonathan Leeman

Very much connected to teaching, I want you to see the biblical role for pastors to care for the church. Pastors Care for the Church.

That's pretty broad. What do I mean? I'm pulling this straight from 1 Timothy 3:4-5

4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

A qualification for a pastor is to manage his own household well. Why? So that there is evidence he knows how to manage the people in his care. So that there is evidence he can care for the church.

The role of pastors in the church government is to care of the church the way he would care for his wife and children. A father in the home nourishes his family, he protects his family, he cherishes and encourages his family, he leads his family towards Christ. The father is responsible for his family and that is true of the pastor's role in the church.

Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Peter 5:2 teach us that pastors are given the responsibility of keeping watch over people's souls. Pastors care for the church by keeping watch over your souls. That's no small thing. I'm going to be honest with you, Hebrews 13:17 is one of the most frightening verses in the Bible for me. I'm going to have to give an account for the way I keep watch over your souls. Donnie and Shannon and I are accountable to God for your discipleship and your spiritual growth as a part of this church.

When we saw last week in Ephesians 4, that the leaders of the church are to be "equipping the saints," we know that pastors are accountable to God for that. Thankfully, God has given us all that we need to equip the saints. As a congregation, we should require faithfulness to God's Word from our pastors. Learning from the Bible is the only way that we can be equipped to do the work of ministry.

And it's Bible faithfulness that positions pastors to protect theology like we see in the pastoral epistles and Acts 20. It's Bible faithfulness that positions pastors to settle disputes like we see in Acts 15. It's faithfulness to God's Word that positions pastors to be the example and to teach in the way the God's Church needs and deserves.

Before I conclude, women, you are not left out of this equation. Though we do believe that 1 Timothy 2 is clear about women teaching and leading men, we also believe God has a good design for women in the church. Women have role in teaching and leading other women and children. Women have a role in participating in evangelism and the work of ministry. God's decision to limit the office of pastor to men is worth a whole sermon, but I want to speak to the women in the room specifically and say that this sermon still applies to you because you are an important and essential part of the body God has designed and brought together for His glory and His fame.

....

Even in the name, overseer, elder, shepherd, there is a clear understanding of the role of pastors in local church polity. God has placed a heavy and eternal responsibility on pastors' shoulders to care for his church and to teach and to set an example. While this responsibility exists, there is no added worth or closeness to God because of it. Every Christian has the same and equal access to God through Christ.