

Core Content Outline

Three challenges were met to produce this material: (1) Identify the key passages in the Bible that address the topic of local church shepherds. (2) Study these passages to learn what they teach us about shepherds. (3) Organize this truth into a logical framework. The outline below is the result of this process. It organizes the shepherding instruction found in the Bible, especially as taught in ten key New Testament passages.

- I. Fundamental One: Jesus, Our Lord
 - A. Individual Accountability
 - B. Corporate Accountability
 - C. Accountability for What He Sees

- II. Fundamental Two: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide
 - A. The Sufficiency and Necessity of His Word
 - B. The Clarity of His Word
 - C. The Power of His Word

- III. Fundamental Three: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd
 - A. His Identity as Shepherd
 - 1. Called "Shepherd" by Others
 - 2. Self-Designation as "Shepherd"
 - B. Jesus' Direction as Chief Shepherd

- IV. The Need for Shepherds

- V. The Development of Elders
 - A. First Appearance of "Elders"
 - 1. In Israel
 - 2. In the Church
 - B. Normative Presence of Elders
 - 1. Instituted
 - 2. Prescribed
 - 3. Valued

VI. Key Passages That Relate to Shepherds/Overseers/Leaders/Elders

- A. The Last Word: Acts 20:17–35
- B. Gifts Unwrapped: Ephesians 4:11–13
- C. Leaders Valued: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13
- D. What a Church Needs: 1 Timothy 3:1–7
- E. The Good, the Bad, and the Hasty: 1 Timothy 5:17–22
- F. What a Church Under Attack Needs: Titus 1:5–16
- G. Remember and Imitate: Hebrews 13:7
- H. Joy for Leaders, Benefits for Saints: Hebrews 13:17
- I. Prayer of Faith: James 5:14–15
- J. Shepherding Well: 1 Peter 5:1–4

VII. The Essential Function of Shepherds/Overseers/Leaders/Elders

- A. Elder
- B. Overseer/Oversee
- C. Shepherd
- D. Lead
- E. Equip
- F. Manage

VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Leaders

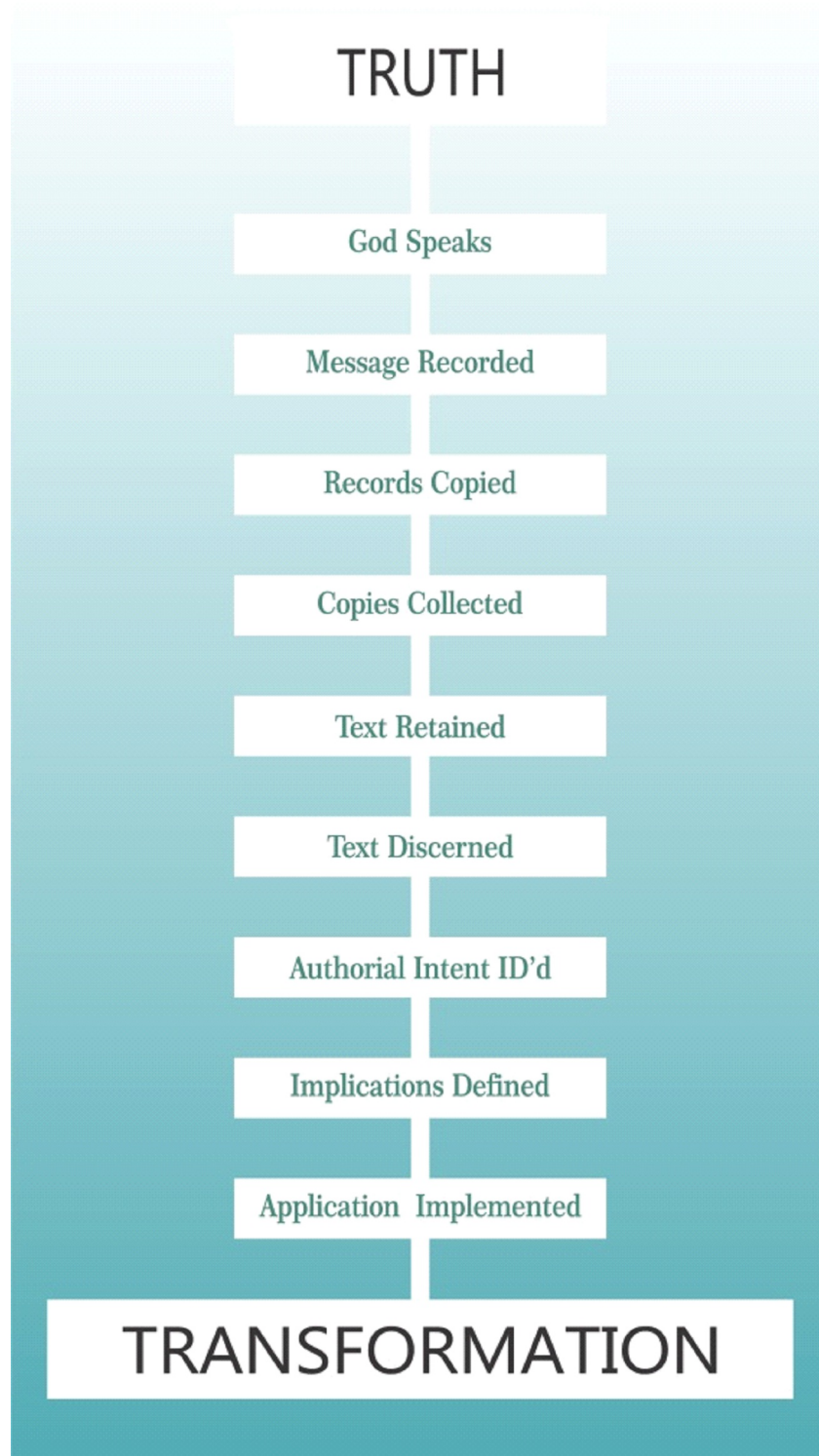
- A. Guard
- B. Teach
- C. Illustrate
- D. Help
- E. Intercede
- F. Show Hospitality

IX. Qualifications of an Elder

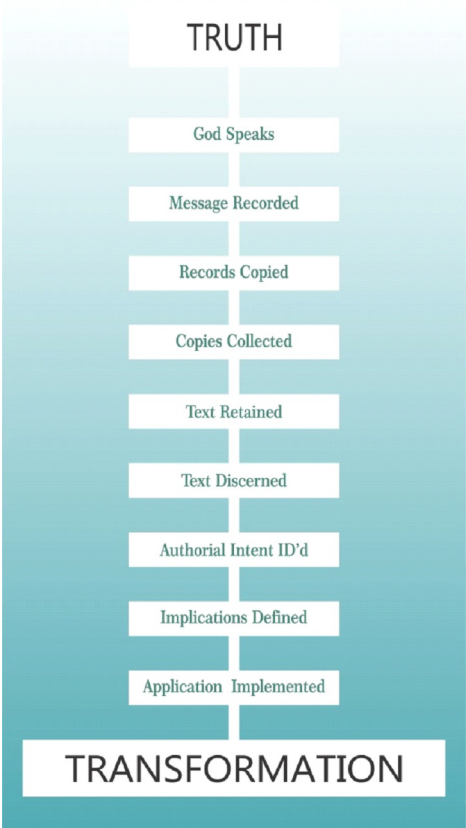
- A. Applicability
 - 1. Option 1
 - 2. Option 2
 - 3. Option 3
 - a. Present Necessity
 - b. The Power of Transformation

- B. Specific Qualifications
 - 1. Above Reproach
 - 2. Exemplary Husband and Father
 - 3. Healthy Inner Man
 - 4. Relational Asset
 - 5. Growth Agent
 - 6. Seasoned
 - 7. Respected
 - C. Key Questions
 - 1. Young Men's Eligibility
 - 2. Women's Ministry
 - D. Basis
- X. The Manner of Elders
- A. Right Motivation: Doing It for the Right Reason!
 - 1. Not Because You Have to but Because You Choose To
 - 2. Not as a Means to an End, but as the End
 - 3. Not to Compel People to Do It Your Way but to Show Them His Way
 - B. Right Work Ethic: Doing It by Working Hard
 - C. Right Recall: Doing It from Memory
 - 1. Remembering What Paul Taught
 - 2. Remembering What It Cost
 - 3. Remembering What Matters
- XI. Response to Elders
- A. Promote Peace
 - B. Value
 - C. Obey and Submit
 - D. Remember and Imitate
- XII. Reward for Under-Shepherds

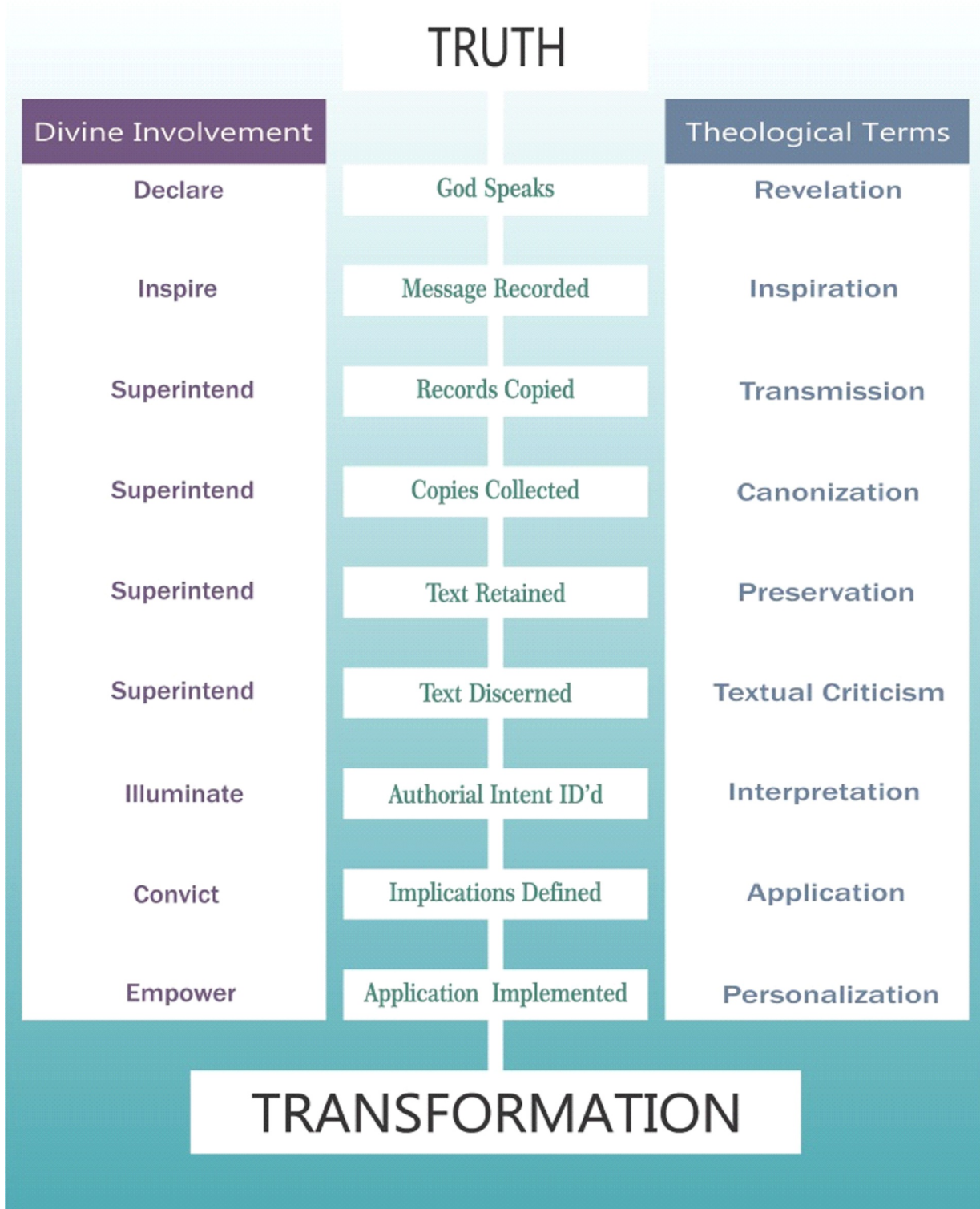
The Growth Chain

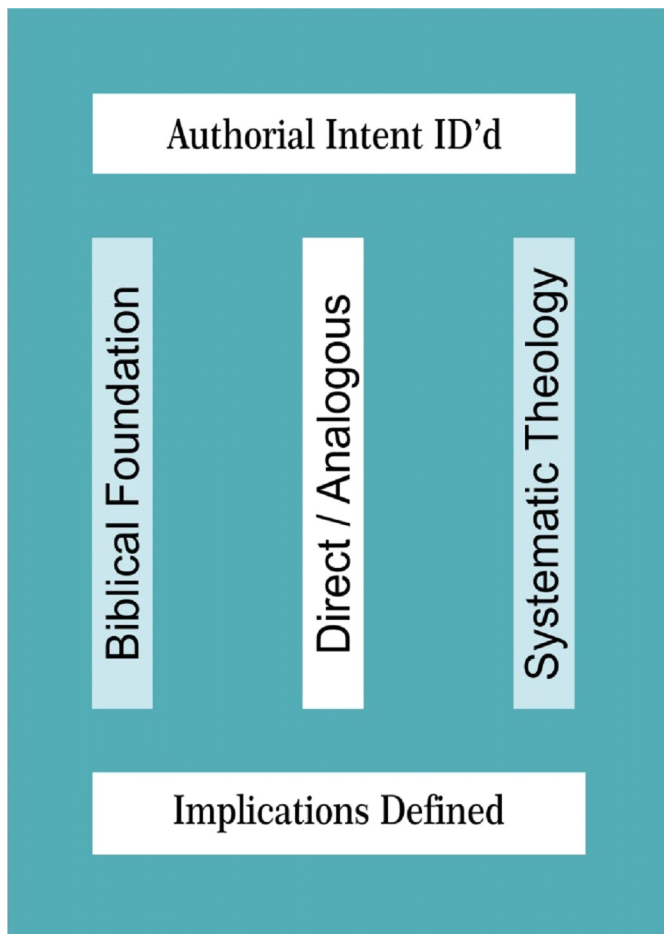


The Growth Chain



The Growth Chain





Why do we need systematic theology?

What is "Shepherdology?"

The Essential Function of Shepherds/Overseers/Leaders/Elders (SOLE)
Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Leaders
Qualifications of an Elder
The Manner of Elders
Response to Elders
Reward for Under-Shepherds

Introduction

- What Jesus Wants

Matthew 9:35-38

- Shepherding Diagnostic

Matthew 18:12

Diagnostic Question 1: ***Do the people in my church have a shepherd who will seek them out when they have gone astray?***

Diagnostic Question 2: ***If I am in trouble spiritually, is there someone who knows me well enough to know I'm in trouble and cares enough to come to my rescue—even if I haven't asked?***

- Women as Shepherding Partners?

Romans 16:1-2

Acts 18:26

Titus 2:3-5

- The Benefit of Studying Shepherdology

John 14:21

Benefit #1: Study what the Bible says about shepherds. Then you can give a gift to Jesus that is just what He yearns for.