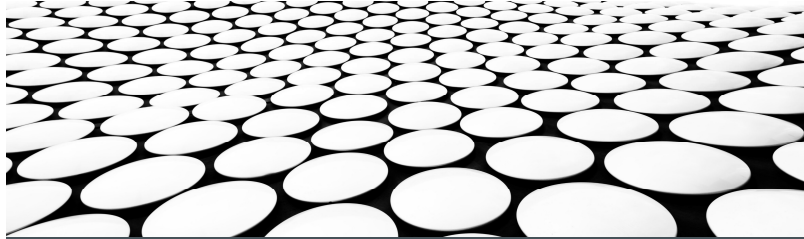


SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS - RESPONSE & REWARD



We need to understand what Jesus says about shepherding.

- I. Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord
- II. Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide
- III. Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd
- IV. The Need for Shepherds – **Jesus has the perfect gift for our acute need.**

- V. The Development of Elders – **Elders are specifically called to step up as shepherds for the church.**
- VI. Ten Key Passages – **Shepherding Essentials are detailed in 10 pertinent passages.**
- VII. The Essential Function of Shepherds/Overseers/Leaders/Elders – **as seen through 6 lenses**
- VIII. Specific Responsibilities of Local Church Leaders – **as discerned in 6 key ministry tools**

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – SUMMARY

Core

- **Above Reproach:** In general, such a man presents a positive and attractive example of what it means to be a servant of Jesus.
- **Exemplary Husband and Father:** This man displays surpassing devotion to his wife and effectively coaches his family to follow the Lord.
- **Good Heart:** He loves the Lord (and whatever God loves) with all his heart, mind, and strength.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – SUMMARY

Catalyst

- **Relational Asset:** He winsomely cares for and helps others do what is right, regardless of personal cost, without power struggles, self-promotion, or angry outbursts.
- **Growth Agent:** His deep personal devotion to God's word empowers him to promote the truth-driven transformation of others.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – SUMMARY

Credibility

- **Seasoned:** This man has spent considerable time growing in humility and maturity.
- **Respected:** He lives out his allegiance to Jesus in the public square both by his example and witness.

X. MANNER

- X. The Manner of Elders: There is a right way and a wrong way to do the right thing.
- A. Right Motivation: Shepherd God's flock for the right reason, a call from God

X. THE MANNER OF ELDERS

Right Motivation

Wrong Ways to Shepherd

- Under compulsion
- For sordid gain
- Lording it over those allotted to your charge

Right Ways to Shepherd

- Voluntarily, according to the will of God
- With eagerness
- Proving to be examples to the flock

X. MANNER

- X. The Manner of Elders: There is a right way and a wrong way to do the right thing.
 - A. Right Motivation: Shepherd God's flock for the right reason, a call from God
 - B. Right Work Ethic: Shepherd well by working hard
 - C. Right Recall: Shepherd effectively by recalling the right word

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS**A Word to Sheep**

- XI. Response to Elders
 - A. Promote Peace
 - B. Value
 - C. Obey and Submit
 - D. Remember and Imitate

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS**A Word to Sheep**

- In our passages that speak to shepherds/ overseers/leaders/elders, we find several statements that define how the congregation should relate to its leaders.
- Think of these four responses as keys that the flock can use to unlock maximum positive impact of shepherds.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS**Promote Peace**

- Shepherds and sheep need to work at maintaining a harmonious relationship.
- Paul exhorts both leaders and those led to **“live in peace with one another”** (1 Thessalonians 5:13).
- The term translated “live in peace” (*eirēneuō*, εἰρηνεύω) is a present imperative.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Promote Peace

- As much as it depends on you, don't stir up trouble. Don't start circulating petitions, choosing sides, building a personal following, and posting anonymous criticisms.
- When sheep and shepherds enjoy a harmonious and peaceful relationship, both doing their part to make it so, benefit will freely flow between them.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Value

- When the flock values its shepherds, they will derive great benefit from their leadership and find it easy to follow them.
- *But we request of you, brethren, that you **appreciate** those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you **esteem them very highly in love** because of their work (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).*

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Value

- *The elders who rule well are to be **considered worthy** of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING,' and 'The laborer is worthy of his wages' (1 Timothy 5:17-18).*
- There are three expressions that outline how leaders are to be viewed by the congregation

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Value

- "Appreciate" means to know or acknowledge. It involves recognizing someone or what someone does.
- To "esteem them very highly" means to hold them in highest respect.
- "Esteem" is like an accounting term that suggests, "Mark them in the asset column." "Very highly" means literally "beyond measure."

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Value

- “In love” indicates the currency to be used. Love them exquisitely.
- Taken together, these terms are saying, “Assign these men value measured in love without limits.”
- Practically, this means that members of the flock would recognize their shepherds as a precious gift. Their presence is not a burden or bother but a benefit.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Value

- In 1 Timothy 5:17, elders who rule well are to be “considered worthy of double honor.”
- Elders deserve “double honor.” “Honor” is esteem or respect. Elders should receive a double dose of such recognition.
- “Muzzling an ox” and “laborer’s wages” suggest that double honor could include remuneration.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Value

- Taken together, appreciation, esteem, and honor all communicate that a shepherd is valued.
- There is a connection between this response and benefit to the sheep. When a shepherd is considered an asset, his counsel will be sought out. When sheep view their shepherd as a liability, they will avoid him and miss out on the benefits he could offer them.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Obey & Submit

- A flock does well when it invites its shepherds to change them for the better and then follows their counsel.
- *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you (Hebrews 13:17).*

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Obey & Submit

- The congregation is to obey (*peithō*, πείθω) and submit (*hupēikō*, ὑπέικω) to its leaders.
- “Obey” can denote surrendering to another’s will, as a horse is controlled by a bit (James 3:3), but it can also be used of persuasion.
- *But he said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not **be persuaded** even if someone rises from the dead” (Luke 16:31).*

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Obey & Submit

- “Obey” is in the middle voice, which means the recipient of the command acts upon himself.
- We could translate it “allow yourself to be persuaded.”
- Sheep that follow this counsel respond to their leaders in a way that is marked by teachability. They allow themselves to be won over.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Obey & Submit

- The second command is “submit.” In this context, it means to follow someone’s direction.
- It challenges the flock; instead of resisting, be subject to your leader’s authority.
- The dual commands in Hebrews 13:17 call the members of a flock to respond to their leaders in two ways: (1) invite them to challenge and change your thinking and (2) then do what they propose.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Obey & Submit

- A reason for this response follows in the explanatory clause, “for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account” (Hebrews 13:17).
- To submit to such leaders simply makes sense; they promote soul’s good of sheep! This is their assignment from God! Who wouldn’t want to respond well to those who seek for them what is beneficial in His eyes?

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- **Remember** those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, **imitate** their faith (Hebrews 13:7).
- The two commands in this passage are addressed to the flock and complement what we said about shepherds who are “proving to be examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:3).

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- This verse identifies a group whose finished lives were imminently worthy of review.
- So what can we say about them?
- (1) They are called “leaders” (from the verb *hēgeomai*, ἡγεόμῃ). As we have noted previously, this means these men governed by assessing and deciding what is best.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- (2) Further, they “spoke the word of God.” When these men talked, you heard what God says. They were truth brokers.
- (3) The writer proposes that “considering the result of their conduct” makes them worth remembering and emulating. “Result of their conduct” denotes the conclusion of their way of life. This suggests that the lives of these leaders had ended.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- (4) “Considering” denotes careful ongoing examination.
- The second command in this verse, “imitate their faith,” indicates that these men are well-known personal illustrations of prevailing faith. In this, they are appropriate inductees into the Hall of Faith.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- The two commands in Hebrews 13:7 are more than reasonable.
- Others can well imitate the faith of leaders of whom they can say this: “I know these men. They led me. They taught me the truth. They finished strong. They demonstrated the kind of prevailing faith I long to develop.”

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- When members of a flock can look to such examples, the writer of Hebrews counsels sheep to hold what they know about these men and what they taught in their thoughts.
- So, how do we remember and imitate those we have never met? Answer: Remember and imitate those we do!

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- Walk through the “Hall of Faith” (Hebrews 11:1–38). Stand at the foot of the cross and look faith in the eye (Hebrews 12:1–3). Gaze at those you know who have demonstrated prevailing faith to the end.
- Basically, this is a call to populate your hero list with men and women of surpassing faith.
- Find faith heroes. These are the ones who unlock the power of the word because it is met with faith.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- When the word is met with disbelief, it accomplishes nothing: *For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard* (Hebrews 4:2).
- Faith unleashes the power of the word to work profound good in those and through those who believe.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Remember & Imitate

- Hebrews 13:7 instructs sheep to find senior shepherds who are finishing well, whose joy in the Lord has not diminished with age, who are embracing costly faith, and whose eyes are on their future in Christ.
- Spend time with them learning how they do it. When they have been promoted to glory, you will be well equipped to “remember and imitate.”

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Summary

- Sheep can go solo, but it won't turn out well. When the flock will do four things, they maximize the benefit they receive from their shepherds.
- (1) **Promote Peace.** When sheep and shepherds cultivate a harmonious and peaceful relationship, benefit will freely flow between them.
- (2) **Value.** When a shepherd is considered a wisdom asset, his counsel will be sought out and effectively applied.

XI. RESPONSE TO ELDERS

Summary

- (3) **Obey and Submit.** When the flock views its shepherd as a fitness coach for the soul, they will get stronger (and their shepherd will experience joy).
- (4) **Remember and Imitate.** When the flock recalls how shepherds finished well and then follows their lead, their faith will flourish.

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS

Shepherd's Reward

XI. Response to Elders

XII. Reward for Under-Shepherds

- In Hebrews 13:17, local church leaders are described as “those who will give an account.”
- In Titus 1:7, the overseer is described as “God's steward.”
- Both of these phrases indicate that a shepherd's accountability, ultimately, is to the Lord.

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS

Shepherd's Reward

- All that we have studied in Shepherdology 101 orbits around His definition. If we will do what we have studied, we will do exceedingly well.
- One of the passages we have studied specifies exactly how well.

XI. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS

Shepherd's Reward

*Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. **And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory** (1 Peter 5:1-4).*

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS

Shepherd's Reward

- In this passage, the main verb is a command: "Shepherd the flock of God among you" (1 Peter 5:2).
- This is an imperative that calls every local church leader to take care of those in his circle ("among you") as a shepherd takes care of his sheep.
- The "among you" factor is key!
- Then follows a promise that keeps me going

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS

Shepherd's Reward

- *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **unfading crown of glory*** (1 Peter 5:4).
- "And" links a reward to the previous: This reward is promised to those who have shepherded well by shepherding voluntarily, eagerly, and as examples.
- What is this unfading crown of glory? The adjective "unfading" only shows up here in the New Testament.

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS**Shepherd's Reward**

- A related verb is used in James 1:11 to describe the rich who “fade away” like grass that withers.
- In contrast, what is promised to shepherds is a reward that will never fade away.
- The “crown of glory” is a metaphorical expression for “to be crowned with glory.”

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS**Shepherd's Reward**

- Shepherds who shepherd well will be crowned with glory that will never wither like grass. One million years from now it will glimmer no less than the day on which it was first bestowed.
- The crowning will happen when the Chief Shepherd returns.
- Right now, we, the under-shepherds, have been left here to take care of the Chief Shepherd's sheep.

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS**Shepherd's Reward**

- But Jesus is coming back to gather His sheep! He is looking forward to finding sheep who are healthy and well cared for.
- When He returns, those who have done well will be crowned with unfading glory.
- If you will shepherd well those entrusted to your care, in your family and beyond, Jesus extends to you the rock-solid promise of unfading glory for the ages.

XII. REWARD FOR UNDER-SHEPHERDS**Shepherd's Reward**

- That prospect makes spending ourselves for the good of the flock the ultimate smart play.
- I'm in! Are you?

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