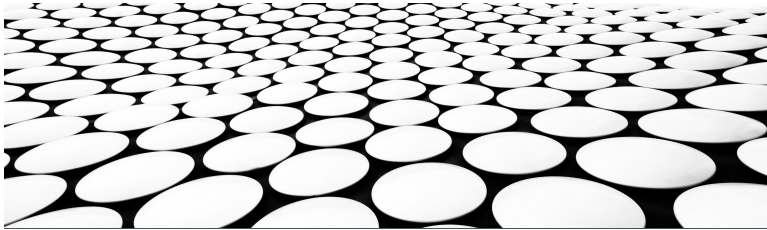


SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS – QUALIFIED (PART 3)



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 terms**

ESSENTIAL FUNCTION

TOOLKIT

Elder: Man of seasoned character and maturity

Overseer: One who understands his people and is watching out for them

Shepherd: One who feeds, cares for, and protects the flock

Leader: One who governs by assessing and identifying what is best

Equipping: One who trains and outfits others for growth and effective ministry

Manage / Care for: One who is attentive to others in order to actively promote what is in their best interests

Guard: Alert to the condition of his flock

Teach: Brings the Word to bear

Illustrate: Demonstrates a positive example

Help: Provides practical assistance

Intercede: Prays for key needs

Show Hospitality: Uses personal resources to serve others' good

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS

- IX. Qualifications of an Elder / Shepherd
 - A. Applicability – **How do we use them?**
 - B. Specific Qualifications – **26 Keys in 7 groups**
 - C. Key Questions – **What about?**
 - D. Basis – **How realistic is this list?**

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS

- IX. Qualifications of an Elder / Shepherd
 - A. Applicability – How do we use them?
These terms cannot be applied in an absolute sense, but they can be meaningfully used to describe who a man actually has become (and is becoming) in Christ.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS

- IX. Qualifications of an Elder / Shepherd
 - A. Applicability – How do we use them?
 - B. Specific Qualifications – 26 Keys in 7 groups
An Elder (1) clearly demonstrates general godliness and maturity (above reproach). Specifically, he must be exemplary (2) in his marriage and home, (3) his personal walk, (4) his relationships with others, (5) his devotion to the word, (6) his time in the Lord, and (7) his reputation with those in the community.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS

- IX. Qualifications of an Elder / Shepherd
 - A. Applicability – How do we use them?
 - B. Specific Qualifications – 26 Keys in 7 groups
An Elder () clearly demonstrates general godliness and maturity (above reproach). Specifically, he must be exemplary () in his marriage and home, () his personal walk, () his relationships with others, (5) his devotion to the word, (6) his time in the Lord, and (7) his reputation with those in the community.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- Paul instructs Timothy and Titus (and us) to find men who are *able to teach* (1 Timothy 3:2); *holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching*, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict (Titus 1:9).
- We have already identified exhortation and refutation as tools in a shepherd’s toolkit.
- Capacity to do so turns on two key qualifications.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- “Apt to teach” is derived from a single adjective, *didaktikos* (διδασκτικός), only elsewhere used in 2 Timothy 2:24-25.
- Although the adjective *didaktikos* is rare, the cognate verb *didaskō* (διδάσκω) appears often in the New Testament.
- This verb links truth to transformation: “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” (Matthew 28:20).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- *Didaskō* involves helping others reshape how they live to align with a standard.
- *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored* (Titus 2:3–5).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- The goal (*hina*) of the older women’s teaching is to “encourage” (present, active, subjunctive) the younger women “to be” (present, active, infinitive of εἶμι) certain things.
- “Teaching” aims at transformation but transformation that is truth-driven.
- Neglecting the truth and ignoring the need for transformation were glaringly obvious in Ephesus.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- *As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to **teach strange doctrines** (heterodidaskaleō) (1 Timothy 1:3).*
- *Although they didn't lack self-confidence, these "teachers" were clueless: Wanting to be **teachers of the Law** (nomodidaskaloi), even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions (1 Timothy 1:7).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- *Of great consequence was their failure to teach doctrine that is vitally connected to godliness:*
- *If anyone **advocates a different doctrine** (heterodidaskaleō) and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the **doctrine** (didaskalia) conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing (1 Timothy 6:3-4).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- *The man who is "able to teach" explains what the word actually says.*
- *He draws out valid points of application from the word.*
- *Then he calls people to live accordingly.*
- *The phrase "holding fast (**antechō**, ἀντέχω) the faithful word" identifies the core commitment that fuels a shepherd's ability to exhort and refute well.*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- *Antechō is only used four times in the New Testament*
- *Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he **will be devoted to one and despise the other**. You cannot serve God and wealth" (Luke 16:13).*
- *Note that antechō is a synonym for love and an antonym for hate.*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- Love animates service. Paul uses *antechō* in Titus 1:9 to denote an overseer as one who loves the word.
- It propels his service; it holds his unrivaled devotion.
- In Proverbs 3, the writer personifies wisdom and lists the benefits of devotion to her: *She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, / And happy are all who hold her fast* (Proverbs 3:18).
- “Take hold” (in the LXX) is our word *antechō*.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- The term denotes a tenacious commitment to wisdom as if she is life itself; Similarly, the man who holds fast the faithful word clings to the word as his lifeline.
- One more thing: “Able to teach” and “holding fast the faithful word” are not necessarily synonyms for pulpit prowess.
- It is possible for a man to be these things without being a dynamic public speaker (an Apollos).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- But regardless of the size of the group to which he speaks, **when** he speaks, you hear what God says on the matter.
- When facing a challenging ministry situation, he searches the word. When trying to understand how to help someone, he looks for relevant Scripture. When he prays, you hear the overflow of a man who abides in His word.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – GROWTH AGENT

- The word to which this man clings is “faithful.” It is perfectly reliable.
- It also conforms to “the teaching.”
- He is not interested in innovation, but preservation. He is not trying to come up with something new, some “insight” that no one has ever seen. He wants to faithfully pass on to others exactly what he is taught from the text.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - GROWTH AGENT

- *Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, / And apply your mind to my knowledge; / For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, / That they may be ready on your lips (Proverbs 22:17-18).*
- **Summary:** God wants men to serve as shepherds whose devotion to His word fuels an ability to bring God's perspective to every conversation. In short, they use God's word as a catalyst to make those around them better.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - SEASONED

- Look for a man to serve as a shepherd who is *not* a **new convert**, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil (1 Timothy 3:6).
- Our English word "neophyte," comes from the Greek term translated "new convert." It means, literally, "new plant." A man who has recently come to Christ and is in the early stages of growth is not qualified to serve as an elder.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - SEASONED

- A recent convert who is recognized as an elder is highly susceptible to becoming puffed up.
- For a new believer, spiritual growth is neither automatic nor immediate. Growth takes time, but not just time. That time must be well used.
- The author of Hebrews has a rebuke for some saints who were squandering their opportunity:

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - SEASONED

- *For though **by this time** you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:12-14).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - SEASONED

- Enough time has passed for these believers to have become “teachers,” but they remain “infants.”
- According to Hebrews, a new convert should devote his energies to learning the basics and doing the spiritual exercises necessary to become mature. This will take time. But it will be time well spent.
- The word translated “teachers” is *didaskalos* (διδάσκαλος), which is another cognate from *didaskō* (διδάσκω).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - SEASONED

- Hebrews 5:12-14 describes those who, by right of the amount of time that has passed, should have acquired the ability to teach.
- Paul recommends looking for men to serve as elders who have used well their days since having come to Christ.
- He especially wants men who have spent sufficient time disciplining themselves to temper the ministry killer that is pride.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - SEASONED

- Even when a man who has recently come to Christ seems to have exemplary character, Paul cautions us to give it some time.
- The shepherd who will be of greatest help to his flock knows from personal experience what the journey toward maturity in Christ looks like and what is required (on his part) to become mature.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- Paul explains, *He must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil* (1 Timothy 3:7).
- “How is this man viewed by those outside the church?” What is desired is a “good reputation.”
- The word translated “reputation” is *marturia* (μαρτυρία). Our English word “martyr” comes from *marturia*.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- *Marturia* is almost always translated “testimony.”
- Of the thirty-seven appearances of the word *marturia* in the New Testament, thirty of them are in John’s works. This appearance of *marturia* in 1 Timothy 3:7 is Paul’s only use of the word.
- This word *marturia* often appears in contexts involving legal proceedings where it denotes the testimony of a witness.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain **testimony** against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were not finding any. For many were giving **false testimony** (*pseudo + martureō*) against Him, but their **testimony** was not consistent (Mark 14:55–56).
- In 1 Timothy 3:7, Paul is advocating for men to be recognized as elders based on positive testimony (*kalos marturia*) from witnesses.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- This might be redundant to “above reproach” except the group from whom this testimony is to be sought are specifically identified as “those outside.”
- The NASB translators have supplied “the church” for clarity; is this reasonable?
- In Mark 4:11, Jesus distinguishes between “his followers” and those who are outside (*exō, ἔξω*).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- For what have I to do with judging **outsiders** (*exō, ἔξω*)? Do you not judge those who are within the church? (1 Corinthians 5:12).
- In the same way, the “outsiders” in 1 Timothy 3:7 should be understood as nonbelievers. Paul is directing us to look for a man who represents Christ well in the community.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- *But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward **outsiders** and not be in any need (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12).*
- When Christians quietly go about the business of providing for their own and others, their conduct commends them to outsiders.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- **But!**
- *“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you” (John 15:19).*
- How realistic is it for a devoted Christian to receive a good testimony from outsiders when those outsiders hate us?

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- *When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the **testimony** which they had maintained (Revelation 6:9).*
- A group of martyrs will be killed because of their **testimony** (marturia).
- They will not flinch from declaring their allegiance to Jesus, even though it will cost them their lives.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- In the world’s opinion, these benighted souls deserve to die.
- In God’s eyes, the fact that they choose death over denial powerfully testifies to their true identity.
- Regardless of what world a man lives in, public testimony should confirm his true identity.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - RESPECTED

- In some contexts, a man might receive a glowing testimony from outsiders that affirms he is the real thing.
- In other contexts that are rife with hostility to Jesus, he might incur a very negative report from outsiders, one that also confirms he is the real thing.
- In every case, look for someone who lives out his allegiance to Jesus in the public forum.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - QUALIFICATIONS

Summary

- The man whom God commends to a flock (1) clearly demonstrates general godliness and maturity. Specifically, he is exemplary in (2) his marriage and home, (3) his personal walk, (4) his relationships with others, (5) his devotion to the word, (6) his time in the Lord, and (7) his reputation with those in the community.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - KEY QUESTIONS

Young Men's Eligibility?

- There is no minimum age requirement listed in 1 Timothy 3 or Titus 1.
- In which case, we would use what is explicit, the specific qualifications, to evaluate a man's suitability as an elder. If it is no stretch to say that these terms describe who a man genuinely is, then regardless of his age, he is a good choice.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Clearly, women are both capable and explicitly called to demonstrate at least some of the qualifications of an elder.
- Older women are charged with teaching younger women how to be **prudent** or **sensible** (Titus 2:5).
- Women are to adorn themselves in **respectable** apparel (1 Timothy 2:9).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- **Similar Ministry Calling?** *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored (Titus 2:3–5).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- The term Paul uses to describe them is *presbutidas* (πρεσβυτιδας), which is a feminine noun that is a cognate to the masculine noun “elders” (πρεσβύτερος, presbuteros). In other words, the Titus 2 older women mirror the men who serve as elders.
- These “older women” are explicitly instructed to minister to younger women.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- The ministry of older women to younger employs teaching (*didaskō*, διδάσκω). The goal is to help younger women live in wisdom-driven ways on seven specific fronts using both truth and example.
- A list of two virtues and two vices outlines the specific qualifications necessary for older women who would be difference makers in the lives of younger women.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- These are mission critical qualities for women who would serve as mentors and growth assets to younger women.
- Women mentoring women – this is the way!
- “Teaching what is good” translates a single word that combines the Greek verb “teach” with the adjective “good” (*didaskō + kalos*, διδάσκω + καλός).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- As we have observed, *didaskō* (διδάσκω) is a key ministry tool used by elders.
- Elders are not the only ones who “*didak*.” *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching** and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Colossians 3:16).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- **But there are limitations:** *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman **to teach** or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression (1 Timothy 2:11–14).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- “Receive instruction” is a third person imperative of *manthano*. This is not a command for a woman to learn but a call for others to let her learn. Don’t prohibit her from learning.
- “Submissiveness” translates the same word that is used of an elder’s children who are “under control” (1 Tim. 3:4).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Submission supports learning.
- Jesus does not use this term but says something conceptually similar: “*Take My yoke upon you and learn (μανθάνω) from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*” (Matthew 11:29).
- Men: Let them learn. Women: Adopt the posture of a learner.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- But Paul does not permit women to teach men.
- “I do not permit” is a present indicative. This is Paul’s ongoing policy for church conduct.
- *I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- “To teach” is *didaskō*. Women are explicitly called to *didaskō* women (Titus 2:3) but prohibited from doing so to men (1 Timothy 2:12).
- *Didaskō* involves authoritative teaching toward relevant character formation and should be distinguished from other communicative ministries, some of which women legitimately use toward men.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- On the Day of Pentecost, a mixed group of 120 (men and women) spoke in tongues in Jerusalem.
- Peter explained what was happening by quoting Joel 2: “*And it shall be in the last days, God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy’ (Acts 2:17).*”
- Philip has four “daughters who were prophetesses” (Acts 21:9).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Priscilla and Aquila both (verbs are plural) used private conversation to “fill in the gaps” in Apollos’s understanding of the Gospel: *But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately (Acts 18:26).*
- A smart husband will regard his wife as a “joint heir” whose perspective is vital and valued (1 Peter 3:7).

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Paul also prohibits women from **exercising authority** over a man (1 Timothy 2:12).
- The term αὐθεντέω (*authenteō*) is a NT hapax. Literally “self-worker.” One who acts of oneself.
- The cognate αὐθάδης (*authadēs*) is helpful.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- *For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not **self-willed** (Titus 1:7);*
- *Daring, **self-willed**, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties (2 Peter 2:10).*
- This quality seems to be something negative for both men and women but Paul is contrasting this with learning. A woman won't learn in command mode.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- A woman must learn “quietly” (ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ) and “remain quiet” (εἰμί ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ).
- There are degrees of quiet: *And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more **quiet**; and he said (Acts 22:2).*
- This may not be learning “without a peep” but she adopts the posture of a learner who is taking it all in.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- What is the reason for this prohibition?
- The order of creation and the difference between men and women (revealed before the fall) are the grounds cited by Paul for this prohibition.
- Do not construe “submission” as a construct between an inferior and a superior – Luke 2:51.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Because Adam was created first, Eve was designed as his partner.
- In the sequence of events leading to the fall, Satan exploited a fundamental difference between men and women.
- The woman was thoroughly deceived and thereby tricked into sinning, the man ate with his eyes wide open.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Her worth is measured by something of profound value, namely, the raising of children who own their faith as their own because of a mom's investment.
- *But women will be preserved (singular) through the bearing of children if they (plural) **continue** in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint (1 Timothy 2:9–15).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Timothy is the product of such a women's ministry,
- *You, however, **continue** in the things you have **learned** and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have **learned** them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:14–15).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS – KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Although women are explicitly called to the teaching of women, they are not to *didaskō* men.
- Because of the affinity between *didaskō* and what we would call “mentoring” this makes sense.
- It also makes sense that women are the right ones to mentor women.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Understandably, all of the qualifications for an elder appear in the masculine form.
- When “in common” qualities are elsewhere used of women, they appear in the feminine form. In other words, Paul’s language in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 is describing men, not women.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - KEY QUESTIONS

Women's Eligibility?

- Based on the complementarity of the Titus 2:3-5 description, there is something to be gained as shepherds partner with their wives who, in turn, mentor younger women.
- But there is no case where women who do so are specifically designated “shepherds” or “shepherdesses.”

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - BASIS

- God is at work in all those who follow Jesus, giving them the willpower and ability to do the supernatural, to become like Jesus.
- *No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God (1 John 3:9).*
- Those who are born of God receive the breathtaking capacity to break the sin habit.

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - BASIS

- We are still in process. But we know where this process is heading.
- *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3).*

IX. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SHEPHERDS - BASIS

- All those whose hope is fixed on Jesus' return are even now being transformed.
- A day is coming when we will someday look just like Him. *Can't wait!*

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.

SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS – QUALIFIED (PART 3)

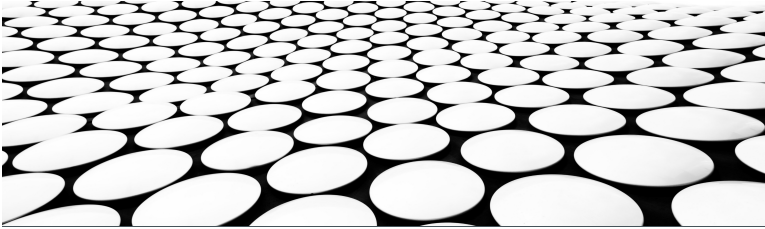


TABLE TIME

- Share your progress pertinent to Practices 7-9. Read “Expand the Circle” and kick things off at your table.
- Share your thoughts with your table group members using the [Discussion Guide](#).
- Complete attendance card for your table.
- Note: No Sunday men’s group on April 17. We will combine Sun & Wed groups on April 13.