"My Job as Your Pastor"

(What God Expects From Me)
I Peter 5:1-4 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 25
10/13/2013

INTRODUCTION:

What does God expect of me as your pastor?

I. God Expects me to <u>FEED</u> His Flock (v. 2a)

II. God Expects me to <u>LEAD</u> His Flock (v. 2b)

"Oversight" - (*episkopos - epi =* over; *skopos =* to look, to see) The elder's job is to "<u>look over</u>" the entire flock. He is to watch out for their protection, direction, and growth.

III. God Expects me to <u>BE AN EXAMPLE</u> to His Flock (v. 3)

"Lords over" - The elder must not have a domineering, despotic, dictatorial control (like that of the master/slave relationship).

"Ensamples" - to model; to give a pattern to follow.

Conclusion:
What is your responsibility to your elder/pastor/overseer?
1) <u>Appreciate</u> him (I Th. 5:12)
2) <u>Respect</u> him (I Th. 5:13)
3) <u>Pray</u> for him (*"Brethren, pray for us" - I Thes. 5:25)*

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INTRODUCTION:

After last week's business meeting, I spent a lot of time praying and thinking this week and meeting with some of you.

I felt it would be good for us this week to take a break from our series "Jesus in the Old Testament" and study a couple of passages that show us what God wants a pastor to be.

A son once asked his mother: "Give me 3 good reasons why I should get up and go to church."

His mother replied:

1) It's Sunday morning and we ought to go to church
2) It's 30 minutes until church starts
3) You're the pastor, and you're supposed to be there!

EX: The unrealistic expectations people have for their pastor.

"The Perfect Pastor"

"After hundreds of years, a model preacher has been found to suit everyone.
He preaches exactly 20 minutes and then sits down.
He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone's feelings.
He works from 8 am to 10 pm in every type of work from preaching to custodial service.
He gives $200 a week to the church. He also stands ready to contribute to every good work that comes along. He is 26 years old and has been preaching for 30 years.
He is tall and short, thin, heavyset, and handsome. He has one brown eye and one blue, hair parted down the middle, left side dark and straight, the right brown and wavy.
He has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and spends all his time with older folks.
He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work.
He makes 15 calls a day on church members, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and

is never out of his office."

"Elders" (*presbuteroi)* - This is the proper title of the pastorate.

The term refers to those men who preside over an assembly in a capacity of leadership.

The title specifically refers to the spiritual maturity demanded of the office.

"Among you" **-** The various churches to whom Peter writes had an elder or elders (in larger churches) who ministered to the spiritual needs of the flock.

"I exhort" **-** to beseech with an encouraging appeal.

The Apostle Peter addresses the elders with humility and graciousness as further evidenced by his description of himself as a fellow elder (an elder together with you).

Peter, like all of the Apostles, would function as an elder of the churches he planted until he trained leadership to replace himself and moved on.

Peter does not call himself a "pope," but humbly calls himself an *"elder"*, yes, a *"sum-elder"* (an elder together with you).

Some religious denominations mistakenly have different offices of clergy. However, three terms are employed in verses 1 & 2 which describe three facets of the same pastoral office -

1) *"Elder"* (*presbuteros)*
2) *"Feed"* [shepherd, pastor] (*poimain)*
3) *"Oversight"* [bishop] (*episkopos)*

Note: Acts 20:17, 28 - the same 3 descriptions of the same office are given again (cp. Titus 1:5, 7)

Lest the elders excuse their disobedience in fulfilling their role due to suffering and persecution, Peter reminds them that he also witnessed suffering. (He not only saw Christ's personal suffering, but he shared in suffering for Christ)

Peter had a share in the glory all believers share in - that being the glorious transformation we will receive and the glorious presence of Christ when He is manifested at the Rapture.

What does God expect of me as your pastor?

I. God Expects me to <u>FEED</u> His Flock (v. 2a)

"Feed" - (*poimaino)* lit. shepherd; do the work of shepherding.

Shepherding a flock involves:

1. <u>Feeding</u> the flock
2. <u>Leading</u> the flock
3. <u>Protecting</u> the flock

"Shepherding" = supplying all the <u>needs</u> of the flock

(A shepherd in Israel had a rough, tough job; it is all work! They wander; they have needs of shelter, safety, food, aid, medication, etc.)

The English word "pastor" is from an old Eng. word which mean to "<u>pasture</u>" (shepherd).

Jesus commissioned Peter to *"<u>feed</u> My sheep"*

SEE: Jn. 21:15-17.

One of the qualifications for the Pastor is that he must be “apt to teach”
Note: it does not say “apt to preach” Why? Because a Pastor's primary role is to teach God’s people God’s Word. It’s also important to note that Biblical preaching involves teaching. The word “preach” simply means to Herald out the Scripture or to proclaim the Scripture.

"The Herald"
It is demanded that they deliver their message as it is given to them.
The essential point about the report which they give is that
it does not originate with them. . .
Heralds adopt the mind of those who commission them,
and act as a diplomat with the authority of their masters. . .
The good herald does not become involved in lengthy negotiations
but returns at once when he has delivered his message.
In rare cases he may be empowered to decide on his own.
But in general he is simply an executive instrument.

Being only the mouth of his master,
he must not falsify the message entrusted to him by additions of his own.
He must deliver it exactly as given to him.
In the assembly and in court he is the voice of the chairman,
and in other aspects of his work as well
he must keep strictly to the words and orders of his master.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering (patience) and doctrine (teaching).

If I am to adequately feed you, I can't. . .

--give you shallow messages (foam and froth, not substantial)
--give you brief messages (sermonettes, "snacks")
--give you unBiblical messages (ear-tickling, "junk food")

"The flock of God" **-** It's not the pastor's flock, it's God's.

God died for the flock (Jn. 10)
God saved the flock
God owns the flock

For the last 25 years, I have considered it a privilege to serve you God's Word. I have been blessed to study God's Word and share with you what God has taught me.

My request: Please pray for me that I will always get fresh insight from God's Word. Pray for me to make strong application to my life and to the church. Pray that I will continue to grow, so that I can help you continue to grow.

Pray that I will always maintain integrity (that I will practice what I preach), and that God will give me the power of influence.

Remember, your attitude toward the chef will determine your receptivity to his meals.

II. God Expects me to <u>LEAD</u> His Flock (v. 2b)

***"Taking the oversight"* -** This phrase tells how the elder is to shepherd the flock entrusted to him.

***"Oversight"* -** (*episkopos - epi =* over; *skopos =* to look, to see) The elder's job is to "<u>look over</u>" the entire flock. He is to watch out for their protection, direction, and growth.

He is to "<u>look out</u>" for . . .

--wolves
--false doctrine
--divisions
--needs

The elder must not do everything but must <u>oversee</u> everything.

--He can't neglect his <u>priorities</u> (Acts 6:4 - Word and prayer)

--He must have willing workers to <u>delegate</u> responsibility to

***"Not by constraint"* -** not with an attitude of compulsion or force, but willingly (voluntarily).

Ministry should be a joy, not drudgery, a privilege not a chore, a "want to" not a "have to."

Such an attitude is hard to maintain when the flock does not cooperate with the pastor. I'm going to need your help here, because it is easy to minister to a flock that is teachable/hungry/open. Our church has been commended for the trait of being "easy to preach to."

My only compulsion should be I Cor. 9:16 - *"Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel"*

***"Filthy lucre"* -** shameful, dishonest gain.

The ministry is not a "money-making" endeavor. The motivation is not mammon but God's glory.

"Ready mind" **-** an eager, zealous, on fire attitude

III. God Expects me to <u>BE AN EXAMPLE</u> to His Flock (v. 3)

"Lords over" **-** The elder must not have a domineering, despotic, dictatorial control (like that of the master/slave relationship).

"Heritage" **-** lit. the ones <u>allotted</u>; that which is assigned or appointed by the sovereign choice of God.

This flock I pastor is the portion allotted to me of God. This is the vineyard God has allowed me to labor in.

We lead not by force and fear, but by example.

"Ensamples" **-** to model; to give a pattern to follow.

The elder must not expect the people to merely do what he says, but to do what he <u>does</u> (This is why the qualifications are so high! -- I Tim. 3:1ff).

I must be <u>exemplary</u> in my:

1) Moral life (my personal holiness and sanctity. Though not perfect, I am thankful for God's grace and protection on me. Please pray for a hedge around me).

2) Character (humility). Forgive me for displays of pride. Some have felt that I come across as "too perfect," and maybe this makes people think that I am unapproachable. (discuss personality strengths and weaknesses -- not a spill my guts, not overly emotional. By God's grace, this helps me not have ups and downs of despair or anger. But it can also make me seem uncaring and unapproachable).

3) Study of God's Word (I am seeking the Lord for fresh insight, new depth; not the "same old stuff" SOS)

4) Soul-winning (I can't expect you to win souls if I am not doing it). The Lord has used me to lead people to Him, but I can do so much more.

5) Discipleship (I want to be more involved in your growth and your family's growth. Call on me. Let's fellowship more. I acknowledge that due to my own fault, I have drifted away from some of you.)

6) Dedication to the ministry (I allowed myself to get distracted with my past involvement with Ambit Energy)

7) Family life (I am thankful for my wife and children and for what God is doing in my home. [Stephen. Thank you for praying for my son. I'm sorry for not being more transparent about our concerns with Stephen. (share reasons why not more open). I was wrong not to be more open. Please forgive me.]

CONCLUSION: Verse 4 - God's Reward: the special crown for faithful pastors

Christ is called the *"Great Shepherd"* (Heb. 13:20); and the *"Good Shepherd"* (Jn. 10:11, 14), and now the *"Chief Shepherd"*.

"The Chief Shepherd" - Christ is the ultimate shepherd, every pastor is an "under shepherd," under the rules and authority of the Chief Shepherd.

(A pastor cannot do his own thing)

"Appear" - To be revealed to the eyes; the Rapture is in view.

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me."

"Crown" - (*stephanos)* - victor's wreath

(Victorious athletes were awarded floral crowns, which quickly faded away)

The honor, recognition, and praise of men will fade away, but the glorious crown Christ gives to pastors will never fade! (we must not live to please men but God).

I don't want the devil or anyone to take my crown. I don't want to fail the Lord in any way.

That is why I am thankful that God has used these trials in our church to work in my life. I know that the men who shared their concerns didn't do so because they were against me, and I am thankful for what the Lord is teaching me.

Please feel free to come to me directly with any burden or concern that you have. I hope you all know that I love you and your spiritual success is my heart's desire.

What is your responsibility to your elder/pastor/overseer?

1) Appreciate him (I Th. 5:12)

2) Respect him (I Th. 5:13)

3) Pray for him (*"Brethren, pray for us")*

1 Thess. 5:11-13 - Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Context:

Timothy had just returned from the Thessalonian believers and evidently told Paul that their attitude toward their pastors was not all that it should have been.

In their expectation of the Lord's soon return, they may have not only quit their jobs (inference from II Thess. 3:10-11) but also may have thought, "What do we need our pastor for? After all, we are not going to be here long!"

Or they may have thought that their pastors were crooked, in the ministry for what they could get out of it. so Paul responds in I Thess. 2:3-6 in defense of himself.

Whatever the reason, they apparently had been: quenching the Spirit (v. 19); despising what the preacher uttered (v. 20); and may have even had some quarrels, gripes, etc., rather than being at peace (v. 13b)

Whereas v. 14-15 describes the believers' attitude toward each other, verses 12-13 describes the believers' attitude toward their pastor.`

I'm sure that if every pastor knew exactly what everyone of his church members thought of him, his feelings would not be too positive.

You won't answer to me for your attitude (which I can't always read), but to God!

Therefore . . .

Every believer should have the attitude that God wants (expects) toward their pastor!

What attitude does God expect?

1. God expects you to have:
AN ATTITUDE OF APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PASTOR (v. 12)

In this verse God is not teaching you to get to know (become acquainted with) your pastor (although this is important), but to know what I am worth to you and the cause of Christ.

It means to "know the value" of your pastor, or in other words "to appreciate."

To express what you are to appreciate about your pastor, Paul uses 3 participles to describe the pastor's function (what he does for you).

APPRECIATE HIM FOR BEING YOUR SPIRITUAL LABORER

"Labour" = to work to the point of exhaustion (cp. 1:3). The word describes the type of work that makes one weary; that takes much strenuous effort. The word is used both of bodily and mental labor.

In reference to pastors, however, this word is specifically used of the mental and physical labor of studying and ministering the Word of God.

I Tim. 5:17 - "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

APPRECIATE HIM FOR BEING YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER

"Are over you" = lit. means: to stand in front of, ahead of, or before. Hence, to be at the head, to direct or rule.

APPRECIATE HIM FOR BEING YOUR SPIRITUAL COUNSELOR

"Admonish" = lit. to put into the mind; to confront one's thinking. The word is used in the sense of: 1) to rebuke; and 2) to instruct

2. God expects you to have:
AN ATTITUDE OF RESPECT FOR YOUR PASTOR (v. 13)

"Esteem" = to think highly of, to build up someone in your mental conception of them.

"To esteem" (being in the middle voice) does not mean to brag about your pastor to others, but to regard him highly in your own mind. This thinking is also to be continual (present tense).

Phil. 2:3 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

The noun form is used of one in a high office and is translated "prince, governor, leader, chief, or ruler."

The phrase "very highly" answers the question "How much should I respect him?" It points to the quantity of respect.

The phrase "in love" answers the question "In what way do I show my respect for him?" It points to the quality of respect.

The phrase "for their work's sake" answers the question "Why should I respect him?" It points to the basis of the respect.

THE MEASURE OF RESPECT
(Esteem them highly)

"Very highly" = is a very emphatic superlative adverb which means "abundantly beyond all limits" or "above all measure."

Paul used this term in I Thes. 3:10 to describe how he prayed "exceedingly."

This word is used to show how God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20; cp. also Mk. 7:37).

I certainly am not worthy to be thought of to this extent (nor is any pastor, evangelist, missionary, etc. on the face of this earth).

But can you imagine how pleased a pastor would be to be thought of this way? How motivated a pastor would be to serve a people like this?

THE MANNER OF RESPECT
(Esteem them lovingly)

How does a congregation express its attitude of respect for its pastor? ANSWER: Agape love.

**This love is not an emotional feeling (EX: the dangers of people, especially women, who get emotionally attached; or of others who "love" his charismatic personality).

"For their work's sake" = Because of their work.

The emphasis is not on the act of working (which would normally be indicated by the participle "working"), but on the type of work. (My boss, employer, foreman, etc. is the Lord - it is His work)

Although a pastor will deserve respect if he works hard and well, the point here is not on how he does his job, but on what his job is. (EX: we are to respect a police officer, etc., because of his position, not merely for his performance)

THE MOTIVE OF RESPECT
(Esteem them for their work's sake)

Why should a pastor be held in high esteem? Certainly not because of his popularity or personality; but because he is doing the Lord's work!

The greatest work in the world is the Lord's work. The work that yields the highest eternal reward is the Lord's work. The work that does the most for mankind, society, etc., is the Lord's work.

"If any man desires the office of a bishop, he desires a good work" (I Tim. 3:1).

"Your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58).

Don't respect me for my intellect, ability, personality, popularity, age, or experience in the ministry -- but because I am by God's grace doing His work (I Tim. 1:12 - "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

CONCLUSION:

"Be at peace" - Why does God include this exhortation? Because a right relationship between pastor and people is vital to a harmonious, orderly, Christ-honoring church.

I am to be at peace with you, you with me, and us with each other!

God does not merely want you to make peace with your pastor and each other, but to maintain it (present tense) (Hiebert, p. 234).

Guard it! If you hear gossip about your pastor, put an end to it.

If there are ill feelings in our church, lets get them corrected.

God expects you to have:

1.An attitude of appreciation for your pastor
2.An attitude of respect for your pastor.

It is a fearful thing to be a pastor. I will answer to God for how I led and fed you. You will answer for how you responded to what you were taught.

I am here at FBC for your benefit! So how you treat me is how you are treating yourself.

You will get (in blessings) exactly what you give (in attitude).