

# Begin session 17 Saturday Morning #1

## SECTION 11 ( Pg 65)

### Pastoring the Church

The Example of the Early Church:

**Acts 2:42-47 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.'**

Acts 2:42 – Essentials of early church LIFE meetings

- Apostles teaching;
- Fellowship;
- Breaking of bread;
- Prayer;
- Filled with awe;
- Signs & wonders by Apostles;
- Sharing with those in need;
- Eating together;
- Gladness/joy;
- Unity/one mind;

Rick Warren, Purpose Driven Church --

1. Worship - Stronger through worship
2. Discipleship - Deeper through discipleship
3. Evangelism - Larger through evangelism.
4. Fellowship - Warmer through fellowship
5. Service/Ministry - Broader through ministry,

Balancing all of the functions/purposes of the church is the job of the Leader – (aka: pastor)

1. You cannot be a church unless you have all of these operating. You may be a ministry, but you cannot be a church.
2. Tendency is to lean too heavily on your personal strengths/gifts

3. Need is to intentionally balance out all areas
4. Sensitivity to know what to do when
  - a) God may lead your church into a season emphasizing one area
  - b) That's okay, as long as you are willing/able to switch to another area when the Holy Spirit leads
  - c) Is it the Holy Spirit – or just what you like?
  - d) Is it the Holy Spirit – or just what will keep your current members with you or happy?
  - e) Is it the Holy Spirit – or something you saw some other minister do?
  - f) Sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit and willingness and ability to go with His leading is one thing that differentiates a River-based church, from every other church in town.
5. Compare PIH / New Day with Rez Life
  - a) i.e. non-prophet organization
  - b) “What is this 'soaking' anyway....”
6. Yet we don't want to become imbalanced in our own excess
  - a) All of the elements displayed in Acts 2 must be woven into the tapestry of the life of the church
  - b) This takes discipline, skill, trial and error, planning, creativity, etc.

### **Shepherding the Flock of God in Love/Purity (Acts 20:28)**

Paul's Example:

Acts 20:28-36 NKJV Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

### **7 Point on Pastoring from Paul Perspective**

1. “Take heed to yourselves”
  - a) Strongs: **G4337** *pros-ekh'-o* From **G4314** and **G2192**; (figuratively) to *hold the mind* (**G3563** implied) *towards*, that is, *pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to*: - (give) attend (-ance, -ance at, -ance to, unto), beware, be given to, give (take) heed (to, unto) have regard.

**b) Thayer Definition:**

1) to bring to, bring near

1a) to bring a ship to land, and simply to touch at, put in

2) to turn the mind to, attend to be attentive

2a) to a person or a thing: of caring for, providing for

3) to attend to one's self, i.e. to give heed to one's self

3a) give attention to, take heed

4) to apply one's self to, attach one's self to, hold or cleave to a person or a thing

4a) to be given or addicted to

4b) to devote thought and effort to

**c) Rule number one: Lead yourself**

- As the leader goes, so goes the church
  - Lead yourself in all of the areas that define a healthy church (worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, service)
  - 1 Timothy 3:2
  - Family – marriage, children
  - Boundaries – clear, communicated, consistent
  - Physical fitness
  - How are you going to be fed spiritually?
  - Make friends that are outside the church – other area pastors, that will help keep you sane.
2. "Take heed ... to all the flock"
- a) "all" Thayer definition: "individually and collectively"
  - b) Balance all the needs of the flock.
  - c) Prioritize time/energy to those who are being fruitful, prune those who are "suckers" with much prayer and humility
  - d) Thayer's "bring a ship to land" is a good metaphor – you are taking the flock somewhere – individually and collectively. A shepherd need to LEAD the sheep – where are you going? How are you going to get them there?
  - e) (more on being a shepherd below)
3. Holy Spirit has made you overseers
- a) The Holy Spirit "made you oversee"
  - You are responsible to Him
  - You are not responsible to all the demands of the sheep
  - You are not responsible to demands of "the board" or others unless subject to the Holy Spirit
  - Develop a keen sense of what the Holy Spirit's purpose is, and follow Him CLOSELY
  - Pay attention to dreams, visions, supernatural hints, but always with confirmations and submission to the Bible and others.
  - Don't get wacky.
4. Warning ... therefore watch (vs. 29-31)
- a) We are in a battle, and many are actively opposed to the Church.

- b) Hurt people hurt people.
  - c) “After themselves” in vs. 30 is a major clue – anyone that tries to draw people to themselves is probably a wolf.
  - d) Be willing to get bloody
  - e) Win the battle in the Spirit before you confront in the natural – TRUST ME ON THIS ONE.
5. Coveted no one's silver and gold or apparel
- a) Duh ... if you want money – go into business.
  - b) Covetousness can dominate a persons life regardless of what they do or do not have.
  - c) There is absolutely no room for this in ministry
  - d) People have been so burned and are so wary about ministry and money, that you have to go “overboard” in being full of integrity.
  - e) Be an example of generosity and simplicity
6. “I have shown you in every way” vs 35 (By example)
- a) Like Paul the best way to lead is by example.
  - b) People don't care how much you know until the know how much you care.
  - c) Paul is specifically speaking about financial integrity, and being bi-vocational, but this applies to every aspect of ministry. We MUST lead by example.
    - 1 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV Therefore I urge you, imitate me.
    - 1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
7. “He knelt down and prayed with them all”
- a) Humility, kneeling down – there is no substitute
  - b) “He must increase, I must decrease” John the Baptist
  - c) **It's not about you** – you are the pastor, you are there for the Church, and to represent Christ.
  - d) Prayer
    - With them, individual and corporate prayer
    - Find ways to integrate prayer into every aspect of Church life and leadership
    - Active reliance on prayer differentiates ministry from
      - psychology
      - business
      - human leadership and natural gifts
    - If we want our members to lead their lives and families by prayer, then we must demonstrate that we lead our lives, family and the church by prayer.
    - What have you done lately that was the result of prayer and not just a good idea?

**Pastor is from the same Latin base as Pasture.**

**Origin:** 1325–75; < L pāstor shepherd, lit., feeder, equiv. to pās-, base of pāscere to put to [PASTURE](#), feed + -tor [-TOR](#); r. ME pastour < AF

**Pasture:Origin:** 1250–1300; ME < MF < LL pāstūra, equiv. to L pāst(us), ptp. of pāscere to feed, pasture (cf. [PASTOR](#) ) + -ūra [-URE](#)

## What do sheep do in/on a pasture:

1. Eat
  - a) Think of sheep gnawing on the grass....
  - b) We need to feed them ... but it also means we will get bit from time to time.
  - c) We are NOT THE SOURCE, if we become the source we have moved from being the shepherd to being a wolf.
  - d) We need to show the sheep where to eat, how to eat, when to eat, what not to eat, how to get over food poisoning, etc.
  - e) We are not the source but we do need to be "A" source.
2. Defecate
  - a) Yes, we get pooped on.
  - b) Don't take it personally
  - c) Examples:
    - Confronting a teenager that sexually abused the 8 year old daughter of another member of the church
    - Going with a woman to tell her abusive husband that she was moving out, and having him personally assault me verbally
    - Having someone tell you how many times they masturbate daily, yuck
    - yada, yada, yada,
3. Lie down, rest
  - a) Like spiritual nourishment, even though we are not the source we do need to be a source of rest.
  - b) People need to be able to lean on you from time to time.
  - c) The church needs to have confidence and rest in you as a leader.
  - d) Don't share personal struggles until you have gained victory.
  - e) Don't share anything that is not at least 2 years old.
  - f) The church is not there to support you, you are there to support them.
  - g) You need somewhere else where you can get support
4. Have babies
  - a) Reproduce
    - Naturally
    - Spiritually
    - Includes marriage (pre-m; ceremonies, counseling, etc.)
  - b) As a shepherd you need to be involved
    - When someone has a baby, you need to go visit them at the hospital
    - This is a non-negotiable aspect of pastoring
    - Especially important for first time parents
    - Bless them, make them feel special, encourage them, help them.
  - c) Spiritually
    - You need to help the sheep learn how to lead other to the Lord
    - You may need to step in like a mid-wife and "close the deal"
    - But the goal is to have a whole flock of sheep reproducing, leading others into relationship with Christ.

## 5. Die

- a) Caring for the sick and dying is a vital aspect of pastoring
- b) Balancing the role of pastor and leader is important and will shift as the church grows
- c) This will always be part of the package.
- d) Jeff Porte, mega church with full time Pastoral care staff, still does a funeral every month
- e) Providing comfort for those who are dying, and for those who have lost loved ones is part of the cost of being a pastor.
- f) Paul says, 1 Corinthians 15:31 NKJV I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
- g) Death is the last enemy, and we always hold onto hope for recovery, nevertheless the Bible says, Hebrews 9:27 NKJV ... it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
- h) Being a pastor means you are there...
  - It does not mean you have the answer
  - It does not mean you can take away the pain
  - It does not mean you can make it better
  - It just means that you are there as Christ's representative, to give comfort.
  - This is sacred, Psalms 116:15 NKJV Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.

### Other Verses from the Book of Acts:

Acts 1:8 – Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:14 – They all joined together constantly in prayer.

Acts 1:21-26 – Pray to God and appoint apostle to be a witness of Jesus' resurrection.

Acts 2:1 – When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:4 - All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:16-21 – ‘this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Acts 2:38-39 - Preached ‘repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.’

Acts 3:1-10 – Healing of the crippled beggar at the Beautiful Gate.

Acts 3:11-26 – Proclaiming Jesus.

Acts 4:1-22 – Empowered with courage and wisdom to proclaim Jesus by the Holy Spirit to those trying to persecute & condemn them.

Acts 4:24-30 – They lifted their voices in worship and prayer.

Acts 4:29 – Prayed to be able to speak Gods word with great boldness and that through the name of Jesus healing and signs and wonders would be performed.

Acts 4:31 – Were being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:32-35 – Were of one heart and soul; with great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all; there was no needy person, all shared what they had.

Acts 5:1-13 – They were challenged to stay pure (Ananias and Sapphira).

Acts 5:12-16 - Healing and signs and wonders happened regularly.

Acts 5:17-20 – Arrested and persecuted and freed by an angel.

Acts 5:29 – Must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29 – Witnesses of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:41-42 – Rejoice in persecution and continue teaching proclaiming the good news of Jesus.  
 Acts 6:1-7 – The choosing of the seven for distribution of food to the widows.  
 Acts 6:6 – Prayed and laid hands on the 7 commissioning them.  
 Acts 6:6 – Speak with wisdom and authority of the Holy Spirit.  
 Acts 6:15 – Countenance of an angel.  
 Acts 7:1-53 – Proclaiming Jesus with boldness.  
 Acts 7:60 – Pray to God during physical suffering and forgiveness of our persecutors.  
 Acts 8:1 – Persecution & scattering of the church.  
 Acts 8:3 – Believers imprisoned for their faith.  
 Acts 8:4 – Although persecuted they preached the word wherever they went.  
 Acts 8:5-8 – Preached Jesus; miraculous signs; cast out demons; healings; results in great joy.  
 Acts 8:14-17 – Prayed for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit, after they had been baptized in the name of Jesus  
 Acts 8:18-19 – Spirit imparted by the laying on of hands  
 Acts 8:25 – Testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord and preached the gospel.  
 Acts 8:29 – Directed by the Holy Spirit to evangelize.  
 Acts 8:39 – Translated in the Spirit.  
 Acts 9:1-2 – Persecution of the Church by Saul.  
 Acts 9:3-19 – Laying on of hands for healing and to be filled with the Holy Spirit on Saul. Hearing and directed by the Lord to minister to the persecutor.  
 Acts 9:20 -30 – Paul preaches Jesus fearlessly and grows more powerful. Attempts to kill him in Damascus and Jerusalem.  
 Acts 9:31 – The church enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.  
 Acts 9:32-40 – Peter heals in the name of Jesus and raises the dead.  
 Acts 10:2 – The centurion and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.  
 Acts 10:3 – Had a vision and saw an angel.  
 Acts 10:4 – His prayers and gifts to the poor came up as a memorial offering before God.  
 Acts 10:10 – Peter goes to pray and falls into a trance where he sees a vision and hears the voice of the Lord giving him prophetic instruction.  
 Acts 10:19-20 – Peter is directed by the Holy Spirit to the men looking for him.  
 Acts 10:42-43 – Peter says how the risen Jesus commanded the disciples to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead and that all the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.  
  
 Acts 10:44-48 – Whilst Peter is preaching the Holy Spirit falls on who heard (understood –check Greek) the message. The gift of the Holy Spirit were poured out – tongues and praising God. Baptized in water in the name of Jesus.  
 Acts 11:19 – Persecution leads to scattering and scattering leads to spreading of the good news.  
 Acts 11:20 -21 – Preaching the good news about Jesus.  
 Acts 11:23 -24 – Barnabas, filled with the Holy Spirit and full of faith encourages the believers to remain true to Jesus with all their hearts.  
 Acts 11:26 – Gathered the church and taught.  
 Acts 11:27-30 – Prophet predicts famine through the Spirit and they make provisions against this by providing helps to believers.  
 Acts 12:1-4 – Church persecuted. James killed and Peter imprisoned.  
 Acts 12:5 – Church is praying for Peter.  
 Acts 12:6-11 – An angel frees Peter from prison.  
 Acts 12:12 – Many people gathered in a house praying for Peter.  
 Acts 13:1-3 – Whilst prophets and teachers were worshiping the Lord & fasting, the Holy Spirit directs them to set aside Paul & Barnabas for the work planned for them. They fast and pray and lay hands on them and send them out.  
 Acts 13:4 – Sent out by the Holy Spirit.  
 Acts 13:5 – Proclaimed the word of God.  
 Acts 13:6 – 11 – Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit confronts the sorcerer and false prophet who the Lord strikes blind.  
 Acts 13:13-48 – Preaching the good news of Jesus  
 Acts 13:49-52 – Persecution of Paul & Barnabas for their preaching.  
 Acts 14:3 – Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

## End Session 17