

Pictures of the People of God

Seeing ourselves through God's Eyes.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 6th

Reflection: God sees differently than us! Is .55:8,9 Because of this, God must reveal himself to us in order for us to “see” (understand) Him and even ourselves. So far we’ve seen that God sees (describes) us as: a Hidden Treasure (Mt 13:44); Costly Pearls (Mt 13:44,46); Clay in the Potter’s hands (Jer. 18:1-6; Isaiah 64:8; The Bride of Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7) and “The Sheep of God’s Pasture” (Ps. 23)

This particular picture (sheep) describes:

1. The Problems we tend to have.

- A. We are prone to “Wander.” Is. 53:6 *“All we like sheep have gone astray...”*
- B. We are Prone to “Poison.” (False Doctrine/Deception) Ps. 23:5 *“Thou preparest a table before me...”*
- C. We’re Prone to “Predators” Ps. 23:5 *“thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.”*
- D. We’re Prone to Panic! We’re easily:
 - 1) Influenced. Gal 4:16-17 *“Am I become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you,”*
 - 2) Infected. Heb. 12:14,15 *“root of bitterness springing up trouble and thereby many be defiled.”*
- E. We’re Prone to Bloat. (Become down cast) Ps. 42:5; Gal. 6:1
- F. We’re prone to “Division.”
 - 1) From of false (Selfish) leaders: Acts 20:28,29; Jer. 10:21; Jer. 12:10; Mt. 15:14
Barna Research Group found that only **51%** of Pastors possess a Biblical World view.
Mt 15:14 *“they be blind leaders of the blind... If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”*
 - 2) From of false (Selfish) followers: Ro. 16:17,18 Barna research 2020 discovered that:
21% of those attending evangelical Protestant churches have a biblical worldview,
16% of those attending charismatic churches, **8% attending** Mainline Protestant Churches,
And only 1% attending Catholic churches have a Biblical World View.
 - 3) Division Destroys! Hosea 4:6 *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”* (See also Ex. 20:5)
Barna found that only **2%** of those 18 to 29 years old possess a Biblical World View.

Direction: Part 2: This Picture also describes God’s Provisions for his “sheep”.

“The Lord is my shepherd (rā’â) I shall not lack;

- #### 1. Pastors (Shepherds) (poimaino: to feed, rule, shepherd) Jer 3:14-15 *“Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you ... and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you (rā’â) with knowledge and understanding.”* (šākal’: wisdom, prudence)

A. The Bible describes them (they’re responsibilities) in 3 main ways.
(Acts 20:17-32; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 1 Ptr 5:1-9)

- 1) Elders *“The elders which are among you I exhort”* (presbyt’eros: older; mature)
 - a) This describes their (spiritual) **maturity!**
(How they’re to keep “learning” 2 Tim. 2:15)
1 Tim 3:6 *“Not a novice, (neoph’ytos: newly planted) lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”* (also 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Pt. 5:)
 - b) They’re to be “examples” (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Pt 5:1,3) *“The elders...not as lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock,”* (typos: a model or “type”)

- 2) Pastors 1 Pt 5:2 *"Feed the flock of God ..."* (poimai'no: to feed 7x, rule 4x, shepherd)
 Eph. 4:11 *"He gave some...Pastors (poimen: shepherd), for the perfecting (katartismos': furnishing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, (diakonia) for the edifying (oikodomē: building) of the body of Christ."*
 a) This describes their "Ministry" (Their "loving") Jer. 3:15 *"according to my heart"*

- 3) Bishop 1 Pt 5:2 *"taking the oversight thereof"* Episkope'ō: to oversee, watch over.
 "Bishop" in 1 Tim 3; Titus 1 is "episkope" meaning to inspect or superintend
 a) This describes his Management role. (How they're to lead)

B. These three roles (titles) are used interchangeably.

Acts 20:17,28 *"He called the elders (presbyteros) 28...take heed unto yourselves and to all the flock (poim'nion: flock, group of believers) over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (epis'kopos) feed (poimaino: shepherd) the church of God."*

- 1) Notice Paul's greeting when writing the various churches in Philippi: Philippians 1:1
"Paul ... to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops"

Either there were no Pastors & Elders in any of these churches;
 Or they were also considered "Bishops".

- 2) Notice God's directions to the churches. Heb. 13:7 *"Remember them which have the rule over you, (acting in the "role" of the Bishop/overseer) who have spoken unto you the word of God: (acting in the role of the mature teaching "elder") whose faith follow, (in their role as Pastor/Shepherd) considering (anatheōre'ō: pay attention to) the end of their conversation." (Anastrophē: behavior/lifestyle/ example) (also 1 Thes. 5:12,13)*

C. They're accountable to the Chief Shepherd 2 Tim 4:1-2; 1 Pt 5:2,4; Heb. 13:17

- 1) That's why they must be "called" (confirmed). Heb 5:4
- 2) That's why they must be qualified. (1Tim. 3:1-7)
- 3) That's why they must be careful! James 3:1

Conclusion:

Pastors are more than "preachers" Or some type of "fire alarm" in case of emergencies.

They're part of God's Provision for His People and as such are God's:

- Gifts to the local church. (Eph. 4:10,11)
- Guides for the local Church. (Heb. 13:7,17)
- Guards for the local church. (Acts 20:28,29; Heb. 13:17)

In and through these roles they help us to GROW. (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

Application: Jeremiah 3:15 *"I will give you pastors according to mine heart,*

- 1) Do you have a Pastor/Shepherd?
- 2) Are you allowing God to use Him to:
 - Guide you *"this is the way, walk in it"* (Is 30:20,21) ?
 - Guard you *"from the snares of the devil"* (2 Tim 2:25) ?
 - Help you Grow *"In grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Pt 3:18)?

**If not, Prayerfully Find one that you believe to be *"according to (God's) heart"* Jer. 3:15
 and Prayerfully/Carefully Follow Him *"in paths of righteousness for His names sake"* Ps 23:3**