

## Shepherding: A Biblical Model of Leadership

Many church leaders function under the title "Pastor", but often with little thought of the relevance of that word or any genuine attempt to be shaped by it. In real terms we can become meeting organisers, Bible explainers, sometimes influenced more by business management techniques than by the command to shepherd God's flock. God, the ultimate Shepherd, called Moses and David, themselves actual shepherds, to care for his people. As 21st century urban dwellers, we have probably never knowingly met a shepherd. What skills must be learned and attitudes adopted to fulfil God's call to shepherd the flock of God which he purchased with his own blood?

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### I. Historically church leadership has been shaped by different trends

#### A. Pre-reformation the priest

1. Mediator, separate, celibate

#### B. The enlightenment

1. Students of philosophy

#### C. Biblical criticism

1. Need for scholarship, secular degrees etc.

#### D. Psychology

1. Therapeutic counselling

#### E. Consumer culture

1. Management skill

- a. 5 year plan
- b. How to market your product
- c. Hiring and firing staff

## **II. God himself revealed as a shepherd**

### **A. Scriptures**

1. Psalm 23
2. John 10
3. Revelation 7:17

### **B. Reference to shepherding has to do with**

1. A journey – not static
2. His presence with them
3. His protection of them
4. His provision for them

### **C. His shepherding often manifests through under shepherds**

1. Moses – Psalm 77:20 ‘you led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses’
2. David – Psalm 78. He led his own people like a sheep and guided them through the wilderness like a flock also he chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds, from care of the ewes with their sucking lambs and brought him to shepherd Jacob his people so he shepherded them according to his integrity and guiding them with skilful hands.
3. Jeremiah 3:15– I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

## **III. Shepherds and the church**

### **A. The apostolic commission**

1. Matthew 28 – go and make disciples, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you
2. They instinctively went and planted churches
3. They under the Holy Spirit guidance appointed elders/shepherds

B. Shepherds lead their flocks

1. Not static but on a journey
2. Out of secular lifestyle
  - a. Confronting false values
  - b. Calling for repentance, faith and obedience
3. Into the Kingdom of God
  - a. Presenting Christ
  - b. Teaching corporate life
  - c. Equipping the saints for works of service