

The Pastor's Role as Theologian, Disciple-maker, and Leader

The Pastor is truly called to wear many hats. We provide care; we teach; we manage; we administrate; we study; we serve; we evangelize; and on and on. In short, we encapsulate all the various "gifts of the Spirit" mentioned in the New Testament — expected to perform each one of them with fullness and excellence. But everyone knows we can't do it all. So what should our priorities be? This pre-forum seminar will explore the three critical roles that all pastor's must play in order to fully live out their calling and effectiveness. With an emphasis on balance, combined with depth, we will explore what our options are and what God's Word calls us to as those who have been entrusted to lead and care for the body of Christ.

Jamie Rasmussen is Senior Pastor of Scottsdale Bible Church in Arizona, and teaches with a unique combination of well-reasoned research, life experience and authentic application. Having a driving passion for the local church, his leadership style is both visionary and strategic. He has been an ordained pastor for 20 years and has led growing churches in Michigan, Canada and Ohio. He serves on the Board of Directors for St. Mary's Food Bank, the second-largest food bank in the US. He travels extensively to Mexico, China, Tanzania, Egypt, Jordan and Israel to take a pulse of needs and engage his congregation in meeting them. Jamie and his wife Kim have three teenage children.

Nobody ever said that a pastor's role is easy – let alone easily defined. We are pushed and pulled in multiple directions. We are asked to wear many "hats" and to "be all things to all people." So what precisely is our role? What are some of the non-negotiables to our calling? What should we prioritize and not prioritize? How do we wade through all the options of things we can and should do, and keep focused at the same time?

I. THE REALITY DEFINED

THEOLOGY/APOLOGETICS

^{ESV} **1 Peter 3:15** but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

-“Experts” we might glean from:

- Ravi Zacharias
- J.I. Packer
- N.T. Wright
- R.C. Sproul

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

^{ESV} **Galatians 4:19** my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

-“Experts” we might glean from:

- Dallas Willard
- Henry Nouwen
- Eugene Peterson
- John Ortberg

LEADERSHIP

^{ESV} **Psalms 78:72** With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

-“Experts” we might glean from:

- Bill Hybels
- Rick Warren

-Nicky Gumble

-Christian Schwartz

Here's the dilemma: *we as pastors and church leaders are called to be proficient in **ALL THREE of these disciplines -- to have a "foot" (three of them!) in each camp!*** Yet these are not disciplines that cross-pollinate very well among the "experts" and this creates for the pastor/leader a felt tension at the very least, and a schizoprenic experience at the very most.

II. Living the Realities of the Pastor's Calling

A) Theology/Apologetics

B) Spiritual Formation

C) Leadership