

RETHINKING CHURCH

SESSION 4 | JUNE 25, 2017

WHAT IS THE MODERN PASTOR SUPPOSED TO DO?

So many agendas for and about the Pastor *“abound because pastors are not sure of their own identities and responsibilities. They try to function like deacons by visiting the sick and helping the poor. They try to function like bishops by meeting with committees and supervising church programs. They try to function like pastors by preaching and teaching. In their efforts to be everything and do everything, they end up as office managers and program technicians.”* Jerry R. Young. Grace Seminary. (1985; 2002). Vol. 6: Grace Theological Journal Volume 6.

- Pastor / Bishop / Elder
 - In his pastoral role, he teaches and leads.
 - In his bishop role, he supervises.
 - In his elder role, he provides wisdom and maturity.
- Two Tasks of the Pastor
 - John 20:15-17
 - Tend = “feed”, as in Luke 15:15
 - Shepherd = “rule” as in Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15
 - He rules: 1 Timothy 1:3, 4:11, 5:7, 6:13, 17
 - “Instruct or Prescribe” is a stronger word than we may first recognize.
 - Acts 1:4, 5:28, 40, 10:42, 15:5, 16:8, 23, 17:30, 23:22, 30
 - How this is done: 2 Timothy 2:24-26
 - The second role is to “feed”
 - 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 2:1
- Ultimately, the P/B/E is the steward of the ministry of Christ through the church.
- He carries out this stewardship by LEADING and FEEDING.

IS MULTIPLE ELDERSHIP A BETTER PLAN?

- Is there, in reality, any such thing?
 - Can “first among equals” be a reality?
 - How equal is the equality?
 - Are all equal in accountability?
 - Are all equal in authority?
 - Are all equal in responsibility?
- Is there any such Biblical precedent?
 - God>>Man>>Creation
 - God>>Moses>>Israel
 - God>>Judge>>Israel
 - God>>King>>Israel
 - Christ>>Husband>>Wife
- Is there any such Biblical instruction?

OBJECTIONS TO A PASTOR-CENTRIC CHURCH

- Daniel Wallace:
 - The church becomes like its leader. “if there is just one leader, the church will inevitably take on that man's personality, including his quirks and faults. But if more than one person leads the church, there is the greater chance that the church will be balanced.”
 - There is a disproportionately high number of moral failures.
 - If a church stops growing after a Pastor leaves it is “due to the magnetism of a single person.”
 - The constitution was written by Christians who understood depravity and they put checks and balances in the American system.
 - Churches with multiple elders will be “less idiosyncratic, less dependent on one person, more accountable”
- Alexander Strauch
 - Shared leadership is rooted in the Old Testament system of Elders.
 - Leadership councils were common in the Middle East and the fundamental governmental structure of the nation of Israel throughout its Old Testament history (Ex. 3:16; Ezra 10:8).

HOW TO MAKE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP WORK

- The calling of the Pastor—1 Tim. 4:14-16, 5:22
- The “followship” of the Pastor—Heb. 13:17
 - The difference between Rev. 2:27 and 7:17 is the followship, not the word!
- The love of the church—1 Tim 5:17-18
- The spirit of the Pastor—John 13:13-15