



1. The Shepherd & Flock: When a believer realizes his place in God's fold he will grow.

(John 10:1-17)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them

also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. (KJV)

A. The Good Shepherd

- i. Good (kalos) means beautiful, valuable, worthy
 - ii. Shepherd = pastor
 - iii. Remember that David was a shepherd before he became a king.
- He PROVIDES He knows our basic need
 - He PILOTS He knows our need for direction
 - He PROTECTS He knows our need for security
The distinguishing mark between the hireling and the good shepherd, is that the good shepherd would lay down his life for the sheep. He was their protector. David recognized God as his protector in Psalm 121. David was trained up in his faith by God to fight Goliath, by fighting a bear and lion as they tried to attack his flock (1 Samuel 16:32-37).
 - He PURSUES He knows our need for compassion

Illustration:

A shepherd was looking after his sheep one day on the side of a deserted road, when suddenly a brand new Porsche screeches to a halt.

The driver, a man dressed in an Armani suit, Ray-Ban sunglasses, Rolex wrist-watch, and a Pierre Cardin tie, gets out and asks the shepherd:

"If I can tell you how many sheep you have, will you give me one of them?"

The shepherd looks at the young man, and then looks at the large flock of grazing sheep and replies: "Okay."

The young man parks the car,

connects his laptop to his mobile,
enters a NASA Webster,
scans the ground using his GPS,

opens a database with 60 Excel tables filled with logarithms and pivot tables, and

then prints out a 150-page report on his high-tech mini-printer.

He turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 1,586 sheep here."

Rather surprised the shepherd replies, "That's correct, you can have your sheep."

The young man takes an animal and puts it in the back of his Porsche.

Just as the man is about to drive off, the shepherd asks him:

"If I guess your profession, will you return my animal to me?"

The young man answers, "Yes, why not?"

The shepherd says, "You are an IT consultant."

"How did you know?" asks the young man.

"Very simple," answers the shepherd.

"Firstly, you came here without being called.

Secondly, you charged me a fee to tell me something I already knew, and

Thirdly, you don't understand anything about my business. Now please can I have my dog back?"

We might think looking after sheep is a simple task but it isn't. Looking after sheep is a highly specialised job. It takes a good Shepherd years to learn his trade – and it is often passed on from father to son.

1Pe 2:25

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

B. The Flock

- **Be Nourished**

Alexcenah Thomas and William Ogden penned the words of their hymn so well:

Hark! 'Tis the Shepherd's voice I hear, Out in the desert
dark and drear,
Calling the sheep who've gone astray Far from the
Shepherd's fold away.

Who'll go and help this Shepherd kind, Help Him the
wandering ones to find?
Who'll bring the lost ones to the fold, Where they'll be
sheltered from the cold.

Out in the desert hear their cry, Out in the mountains wild
and high;
Hark! 'Tis the Master speaks to thee, "Go find my sheep
wher-e'er they be.

Bring them in, bring them in, Bring them in from the fields
of sin;
Bring them in, Bring them in, Bring the wandering ones to
Jesus.

- **Be Healthy**
- **Thrive in Truth**
- **Follow**

John 21:16

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

2. The Groom & Bride: When a believer sets himself apart for Jesus Christ he will be changed.

(Ephesians 5:21-30)

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might

sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. (KJV)

A. The Groom

- Love
- Sacrifice
- Purifies
- Provides

B. The Bride

- Submits
- Lives
- Chaste
- Completes

3. The Temple & Stones: When a believer involves himself with other believers they will build.

A. The Temple

B. The Stones

(Ephesians 2:18-22)

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (KJV)

1Pe 2:5

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

- What is your view of church?
- Are you participating in the grandest scheme of God—to change the world by changing His people?
- What holds you back from bumping shoulders and rubbing elbows with those who are so much like you?
- How do you view the shepherding role of those who are within the church?
 - They're sheep too!
 - They can counsel, pray and care for you!
- Is church more about you or about God?