



SHEPHERD/PASTOR

EXPLORING THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES



WHAT A SHEPHERD/PASTOR BRINGS

Shepherd/pastors care for others, see their needs, and bring encouragement and healing with patience and empathy. They build connections and foster loving community and an atmosphere of family. They demonstrate the message of God's love through practical action.

They are mostly focussed on the church community, concerned for its spiritual maturity and for making disciples. But they participate in God's mission by reaching out to those on the fringes, and ensuring mission revolves around relationship.

They protect the vulnerable and provide stability and security for the community, seeking to bring peace where there is disharmony. They help people through the difficult phases of life.

Without shepherd/pastors people can be forgotten, or unnoticed, and find little help in difficult times. They can feel burnt out by the call to mission.

They value the structures and routines of community life. They help to negotiate change well, being able to pay attention to hidden voices, but are not resistant to it.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF SHEPHERD/PASTORS

Barnabas demonstrates a shepherd/pastor heart by defending Mark (Acts 15:36-41).

Paul writes to the Philippians that "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart..." (Philippians 1: 4-7) Writing to the Thessalonians he said, "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children." (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

JESUS THE SHEPHERD/PASTOR

Jesus calls Himself the good Shepherd/pastor who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11). He washes His disciples' feet, and has compassion on the excluded. In the "Word becoming flesh" He comes alongside human beings. "And when the Chief Shepherd/pastor appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away." (1 Peter 5: 4)

FUNCTION / CALLING:
SHEPHERDING / SHEPHERD

Theological Roots (APEST in the doctrine of God)	Archetypes and Heroes (APEST patterns laced in and throughout creation)	Reconstituted APEST (Redeemed and exemplified in Jesus)	APEST Functions (Implicit) (Given to and coded into <i>ecclesia</i>)	APEST Callings (Explicit) (Practitioners)
Community in Trinity, Comforter, Immanent, Intimate Knower (<i>yada</i>), Divine Parent, Compassionate	Caregiver, Defender, Peacemaker, Helper, Servant, Selfless, Healer Examples: Elders, Lovers, Guardians, Loyalists, Humanizers, Parents, First responders, Cultivators, Mediators, Military, Counselors, Health-workers, Priests, Community workers, Human resources, Police	Good Shepherd, Healer, Reconciler, Protector/Guardian of the community (lays down his life), The life, Reconciler, Healer, Establishes true community, God's righteous one (<i>Tzaddik</i>)	Cultivate loving and caring community, Protect members, Maintain relational glue, Develop pathways for maturity / discipleship, Create place of healing, Shalom	Pastoral carers, Spiritual directors, Community reconcilers, Relational glue, Healers-counselors, First responders

TAKEN FROM 5Q BY ALAN HIRSCH

THE DISCIPLESHIP OF A SHEPHERD/PASTOR

They can have a very practical discipleship, as actions are vital. They love the humanity and compassion of Jesus, and express their love for God by loving others.

Reflecting on the pain of Jesus, and taking part in Communion, may be particularly important for shepherd/pastors.

WHAT A SHEPHERD/PASTOR NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL OF

Finding it hard to move from staying with people's pain in compassion to seeking their healing.

Struggling to offer challenge or even confrontation when needed for fear of hurting people.

Enjoying people's dependency and finding the changes that mission brings hard - experiencing pastoral care as comfort alone, and thus missing out on some of the harder aspects involved in seeing transformation.

Having unhealthy boundaries due to feeling they are needed leading to exhaustion and/or resentment.

Not allowing God, and others, to care for them.

QUESTIONS FOR A SHEPHERD/PASTOR TO REFLECT ON:

Am I caring and showing compassion for people?

Am I investing in their growth?

Am I building community and including others?

How am helping people move from pain to wholeness?

How am I responding to the personal challenges being pastoral can bring?

Where do I see the need for the pastoral ministry in my church or workplace?

What is God saying and how might I respond?

