

**DO YOU ESTEEM YOUR PASTOR HIGHLY IN LOVE FOR HIS WORK'S SAKE?  
(The Importance of the Shepherd/ Pastor – Sheep/ Congregation Relationship)**

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you,  
and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,  
and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.  
{ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 }

- Do you grasp the importance of the divine institutions and a doctrinally sound local church?
  
- 1. **The Shepherd / Sheep relationship is a \_\_\_\_\_ appointed relationship of a critical nature under the Headship / Lordship of Jesus Christ amidst a spiritual battle. (Acts 20:28-32)**
  
- 2. **The Shepherd / Sheep relationship is an \_\_\_\_\_ relationship for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints to do the work of \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-16)**
  
- 3. **The Shepherd / Sheep relationship is a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship involving \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ men with \_\_\_\_\_ saints, involving many challenges. (2 Cor. 3:5-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 3 & 4)**
  
- 4. **The Shepherd / Sheep relationship is a mutually \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ relationship for the Lord and His Body.**
  - **What are the pastor's responsibilities to the congregation before the Lord?**
    - a) **Shepherding God's flock involves \_\_\_\_\_ ... as a pastor is to feed the flock of God the very Word of God. (John 21:15-17; 1 Timothy 4:6, 11, 13, 16; 2 Timothy 2:2, 24-25, 4:1-4, 17, Titus 1:3, 9; 2:1, 15)**
    - b) **Shepherding God's flock involves \_\_\_\_\_ ... as a pastor must carefully guard and watch over the flock of God for those dangerous predators that would harm them spiritually. (Acts 20:28-32)**
    - c) **Shepherding God's flock involves \_\_\_\_\_ ... as a pastor needs to engage in a ministry of intercessory prayer for people's needs. (Acts 6:3-4; James 5:16; Col. 4:12-13)**
    - d) **Shepherding God's flock involves \_\_\_\_\_ ... as a pastor must personally model the biblical truths he publicly teaches. (1 Timothy 4:12)**
    - e) **Shepherding God's flock involves \_\_\_\_\_ ... as a pastor must be involved in personal contact in addressing people's needs. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)**
    - f) **Shepherding God's flock involves \_\_\_\_\_ ... as a pastor must exercise oversight and leadership as it relates to the needs, ministries, and direction of the church. (Hebrews 13:7, 17)**

• **What are the church's responsibilities to their pastor(s) before the Lord?**

- a) God desires you to \_\_\_\_\_ to the biblical teaching and \_\_\_\_\_ the faith of your local church leaders. (Hebrews 13:7-9)
- b) God desires you to \_\_\_\_\_ the biblical teaching and \_\_\_\_\_ to the practical decisions of the local church leaders. (Hebrews 13:17)
- c) God desires you to \_\_\_\_\_ for your local church leaders and be on speaking terms with them. (Heb. 13:18, 24)
- d) God desires you to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ those leaders who labor in preaching and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17-18)
- e) God desires you to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ your local church leaders. (1Thess. 5:12)
- f) God desires you to \_\_\_\_\_ your local church leaders for their work's sake. (1Thess. 5:12-13)

**5. The Shepherd/Sheep relationship is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship when they are faithful which should be expressed by believers and will be rewarded at the Bema by Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 5:12-14; Phil. 1:27; 1 Peter 5:4;)**

**6. The Shepherd/ Sheep relationship is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship and not to be an \_\_\_\_\_ relationship. (1 Timothy 5:17-20)**

**7. The Shepherd/Sheep relationship is a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the furtherance of God's will in the building of His Church till Jesus comes again. (1 Cor. 15:10; Col. 2:6-7)**

• **Let's review and apply:**