

Lesson 10



PASTORAL MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the biblical model of a Pastor
- To understand the importance of the “call of God
- To understand the biblical principles relating the preparation of a Pastor
- To understand the relationship of the Pastor with those around him with the church and the community
- To know how to conduct services e.g., wedding and funeral

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. BASIC FOUNDATION OF THE PASTORAL MINISTRY
 - A. Preparation of the Pastor
 - B. The Purposes of the Pastor
 - C. A Biblical Model: The Pastor as a Shepherd
 - D. Characteristics of a Good Pastor
 - E. Key ideas from Paul’s letter
 - F. The Call of God
 - G. Developing an ethical standard for the ministry

- II. BASIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THE PASTOR
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 - B. The Pastor’s relationship with his wife and family
 - C. The Pastor’s relationship with his church members
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I. BASIC FOUNDATION OF THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

A. *The Preparation of the Pastor*

For any occupation in the secular world, we take time and money to train workers for the job. How much more we need to prepare ourselves for the work of the pastoral ministry.

1. Moses

The Lord prepared Moses for the spiritual and administrative task of leading the children of Israel.

He allowed Moses to be the most highly trained of all the men of Egypt. God also allowed him to go through the long period of spiritual waiting before he was to embark on the task.

"Moses was educated with all the Education of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action." **Acts 7:22**

2. Paul

The Lord prepared Paul to be the Apostle to the early church.

- Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin
- He was highly educated, the rabbi Gamaliel
- After his conversion, Paul spent time in Arabia
- He also spent three years in Damascus

These are the times of waiting and preparation.

3. Elisha

Elisha was prepared as a servant of the Prophet Elijah. **2 Kings 3:11**
"Elisha, son of Shaphat. He used to pour water on the hand of Elijah."

Q: What kind of preparation a person needs to have?

An education in primary and secondary would be helpful. Time spent in a bible school would greatly help to prepare a person for the ministry too.

B. *The Purposes of the Pastor*

Ephesians 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The ministry of a Pastor is a **gift** of God: **Ephesians 4:7-13**

1. To **prepare** God's people **v12**.

The Pastor is to prepare God's people to do the work of the ministry as we can see in Ephesians 4:12. In many fast growing churches, the Pastor has trained their key leaders to teach, preach and even also trained others to baptise new converts.

2. To **build** up the body of Christ **v12**.

The pastor is the servant of God to build his Church. He should not tear down the church but to build up the church.

3. To enhance **unity** in the faith **v13**.

The Pastor should do what he can to maintain unity and peace in the church. Sometimes due to the lack of wisdom, a pastor can become an instrument causing division in the church. Psalm 100:33 tells us where there is unity the blessing of God is present.

4. To enhance **growth** in the knowledge of Jesus **v13**.

The pastor should be a person who is able to teach the Word of God so that his congregation can grow in the knowledge of the Word.

5. To help the believers grow in **maturity** **v13**.

As a pastor he should do all he can to help the sheep grow in their faith. There are times that the believer has to go through difficult circumstances and as such they need the nurturing help of the pastor.

C. *A Biblical Model: The Pastor as a Shepherd:*

Psalm 23 & John 10

Remember that a Pastor is a shepherd and not a hireling who is interested only in his own selfish ambition.

1. Jesus is the good shepherd **John 10:14**

The hireling will only seek to fulfil own interest, desire, lust and greed.

2. The Pastor leads his sheep **John 10:3, Ps 23:2**

The shepherd will go ahead of his sheep. As a pastor you must learn to project the vision for the congregation. Through the vision you lead them into the way the Lord would have them go.

The pastor should lead his sheep and not beat or drive his sheep with a wooden stick.

Some pastors force the sheep to follow their own ways. They are leaders who are insecure and manipulative.

3. The Pastor feeds his sheep **Psalm 23:2**

He makes sure that they will not feed on that which is poisonous or harmful to them. The pastor must be able to protect his sheep from false teachers.

4. The Pastor restores his sheep **Psalm 23:3**

During times when a believer is hurt and discouraged, they are very much tempted to backslide or turn away from the faith. This is where the pastor needs to restore the believer back to his/ her relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, the shepherd.

5. The Pastor guides his sheep **Psalm 23:3**

There are times when believers are not too sure what they need to do concerning particular problems in their lives. This is where the pastor will need to help the sheep to discern the will of God through prayer and the word of God.

6. The Pastor comforts and walks with his sheep in times of trouble
Psalm 23:4

7. The Pastor **protects** and lays down his life for his sheep **John 10:11**

There are also times whereby the pastor needs to protect his sheep from cunning and wicked schemes of worldly people.

8. The Pastor has a **heart** for the lost **John 10:16**

It is like the Good Shepherd who will leave the 99 sheep and look for the lost sheep.

D. Characteristics of a Good Pastor :

Following are some good traits of a pastor:

1. **Courage**

Jesus himself was not fearful of Herod or Pilate. He demonstrated great courage. The Apostle Paul was also a man of courage. He stood before Kings and officials such as Philip, Festus and Agrippa (**Acts 19:30**).

2. **Diligent**

In the Bible we see God will always bless diligence and not laziness. (**Proverbs 22:29**) "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before Kings: he shall not stand before mean men." (KJV)

v6-10,11 Tells us a lazy person will end up in poverty.

3. **Discretion**

This is the quality that speaks of wisdom and sound judgement. Paul said in **Romans 14:16** "Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil."

4. **Punctuality**

A pastor who is always late for meetings or church services will not be a good example for his church member.

5. **Godly**

A pastor must maintain godliness in his life. He should exhibit to choose such as the Word of God, prayer and walking in holiness.

Isaiah 52 :11 tells us that the servant of the Lord must “*depart, go out from there: touch no unclean things: come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessel of the Lord.*”

6. **Humble**

1 Peter 5:3-6 “*Cloth yourselves with humility toward one another because, ‘God oppose the proud and give grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under mighty hand that he may lead you up in due time.*”

7. A man who has a **forgiving** spirit

Sometimes in the ministry there are misunderstandings that will cause hurts to the pastor. He must be forgiving as Paul tells us in **Ephesians 4:32** “*Love and compassion to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgive you.*”

E. ***Key ideas from Paul s lette :***

2 Timothy 2

1. The minister as a **teacher**: v2 : to teach the believers.
2. The minister as a **soldier**: v3 : to endure trials.
3. The minister as an **athlete**: v5 : to conduct his lifestyle according to godly rules.
4. The minister as a **farmer**: v6 : to work hard.
5. The minister as a **workman**: v15 : handles the word correctly.
6. The minister as a **vessel**: v20-23 : cleansed from sin.
7. The minister as **slave**: v24-26 : serve humbly his Master.

F. ***The Call of God***

God does specifically “call” some believers into “full-time ministry.”

There come a time where by the person will be so occupied in the ministry there he will have to resign from his “secular job” and go into “full time” ministry. Early disciples were called away from their secular jobs.

John 1:35-51 and Mathew 4:19

A minister must have a call of God upon his life. **Hebrews 5:4**

It is not just another job to earn some money

It is the call of God that will sustain the Pastor in times of trials or discouragement.

1. Biblical examples of men with the call of God.

- a) Moses : **Exodus 3**
purpose : to deliver God's people
- b) Gideon : **Judges 6:11-25**
purpose : to fight a battle
- c) Jeremiah : **Jeremiah 1:4-10**
purpose : to speak God's Word
- d) Jonah : **Jonah 1-4**
purpose : to a wicked city
- e) Samuel : **1 Samuel 3**
purpose : Be God's priest
- f) Paul : **Romans 15:16**
purpose : Proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles

2. Recognizing God's call.

- a) He speaks through His Word: **2 Timothy 3:16 - Jonah 1:1** - the word of the Lord came.
- b) The confirmation : **Proverbs 15:22**
by godly counselors : **Proverbs 20 :18**
- c) The peace of God : **Philippians 4:6-7**
- d) Circumstances : In Jonah's case, God used adverse circumstances to corner him.
- e) Inner witness : **Romans 8:16** - Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit.
- f) Dreams : **Joel 2:28**

- g) **Audible** voice : 1 Samuel 3:4,6,8
 h) **Prophetic** utterance : Acts 13:1-3

G. Developing an ethical standard for the ministry

Ethics are your basic beliefs that dictate your behavior and lifestyle.

Basic keys are:

Genuine agape **love** of God : 1 Corinthians 13
Truth of God : 2 Timothy 3:16

1. The Pastor and his work
 - a) As a pastor controls his own time, he must be a good **steward**
 - b) Reserve time to **prepare** God's Word to feed the congregation.
 - c) He must speak the **truth** without fear or favor.
 - d) It is unethical for a Pastor to preach another person's sermon as if his own without giving **credit** to the source.

2. The Pastor and his congregation
 - a) It is unethical for a Pastor to break his **agreement** with his church.
 - b) He must not divulge **confidential** knowledge of his members without their consent.
 - c) It is unethical for a Pastor to be in **debt** and not pay his bills. He must be honest.
 - d) He must not engage in another job to make **money** while being paid by his church without the consent of his leaders or boards.

3. The Pastor and his fellow ministers
 - a) It is unethical to **interfere** with another congregation.
 - b) He must be careful not to "**steal sheep**".
 - c) He must not **speak ill** of another Pastor.

4. The Pastor and his Predecessor

Romans 14:4 *“As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.”*

- a) Speak **well** of your predecessor
- b) Show **appreciation** for the good things he has done
- c) If comes to visit your congregation, **recognize** his presence
- d) Do not **change** all his methods immediately after taking over.

There will come a time when you will be succeeded by someone else. Treat your predecessor as you would like your successor to treat you in future.

5. The Pastor and his Successor

- a) Give whatever **assistance** you can to your successor
- b) Retire **gracefully** and let your successor rise up. John the Baptist had this attitude when he said that Jesus *“must increase and he must decrease.”* **(John 3:30)**
- c) If your former church members come to you for counsel, it would be wise for you to direct their **confidence** towards your successor.
- d) Do not be **jealous** if your successor is more successful than you. Only a carnal man with a “small heart” is jealous.
- e) If you are called to conduct any ceremony of your former sheep (such as weddings or funerals), it would be courteous of you to **consult** with your successor.

6. The Pastor and Money

Paul was not unfaithful to warn Timothy and all his successors of this ever lurking danger and pitfall.

- a) There may be some circumstances whereby it justifies a pastor asking his church board or leaders to increase his salary. It is better to do without what one deserves than to gain it by hurtful or manipulative means.

b) Business ventures and the Pastor

Sometimes in small churches it is necessary for the pastor to work on the side to secure a livelihood for himself and his family. But that should be considered a temporary expediency.

2 Timothy 2:4 *“No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs he wants to please his commanding officer.”*

The Bible tells us in **1 Timothy 5:18** that the laborer is worthy of his hire.

c) Should the pastor go in debt?

He had better discipline himself to live within his means. If he must borrow, it had better be from a bank or loan company. Then the obligation will be discharged in a businesslike way.

But, in general, a pastor should avoid debt. If his income is limited, he had better pay cash for all purchases.

d) The Pastor and the church's money

The Pastor should never take church money for his own use, even though he may be sincere in his intention to refund it.

A pastor should never be a treasurer of any church funds.

II. BASIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THE PASTOR

In this section we will touch on the following:

- Relationship with God
- Relationship with his wife and family
- Relationship with church members
- Relationship with local church leadership

A. The Pastor's relationship with God

A Pastor must have a relationship with God. Its where life flows from him to his congregation. **Matthew 6:33**

Great men and women of God who are mightily used of God testify of the importance of a relationship with God – **John 15:5**

E.M. Bounds commented that *“What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not anoint plans, but men of prayer.”* (E.M. Bounds Power Through Prayer, P12)

1. WORD of God

- a) The Word of God is our source for the ministry: **Matthew 4:4**
- b) The Word of God keeps us from sin: **Psalms 119:11**
- c) The Word of God has saving power: **Romans 1:16**
- d) The Word of God is our weapon: **Ephesians 6:17**
- e) The Word of God gives us guidance: **Psalms 119:105**
- f) The Word of God keeps us from doctrinal error: **Matthew 22:29**
- g) The Word of God brings us success: **Joshua 1:8**

2. Prayer

- a) We are commanded to pray: **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”
1 Chronicles 16:11
- b) Prayer keeps us from falling into temptation: **Matthew 26:41**
- c) Men of God were men of prayer :
 - (i) Moses : **Exodus 17:11**
 - (ii) Samuel : **1 Samuel 7:9**
 - (iii) Daniel : **Daniel 6:10**
- d) Jesus devoted Himself to prayer:
 - (i) **Mark 1:35** ... early in the morning
 - (ii) **Mark 6:46** ... went to the hills to pray
 - (iii) **Luke 6:12** ... spent the night in prayer
- e) The early church leaders spent time in prayer. Acts 6:4

3. Obedience

The great danger for Pastors is for them to teach others to obey but they themselves are not obeying the WORD.

- a) God wants our obedience more than our service.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

- b) Examples of men of obedience

- (i) Noah : Genesis 46:22
- (ii) Abraham : Genesis 22:4
- (iii) Joshua : Joshua 11:15
- (iv) Paul : Acts 26:19

- c) Obedience to God is a key to spiritual knowledge. **John 7:17**

B. The Pastor's relationship with his wife and family

Ephesians 5:22-6:4 and **1 Peter 3:1-7**

V5: *"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord."*

V4: *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*

1. The importance of a stable marriage of a Pastor :

- a) He is responsible to **prepare** others for marriage.
- b) He is to **teach** the married people live better lives.
- c) He is to be an **example** for others to follow.

2. The wife of a Pastor :

1 Peter 3:1-7

The Pastor's wife can make or break her husband. She can help him in his weaknesses or attack his weak spots according to her choice. She can stand with him in times of discouragement and difficulties. Job's wife did not encourage him in his times of trials: *"Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"* **Job 2:9**

- a) Her lifestyle an **example** that impress others for Christ: **v1-2**

- b) She should be **submissive**: v1
- c) She should live a life of **purity**: v2
- d) She emphasize **inward** beauty: v3
- e) She should **respect** her husband: v6
- f) Be a **help-mate** to the husband.

Following are some practical ways ¹:

- (i) Be **yourself**
The husband married her as she is.
- (ii) Realise that you do **share** in the ministry
- (iii) Be an **emotional** support to him
- (iv) Support him in **prayer**
Perhaps no one else is praying for him except his dear wife.
- (v) Encourage him to scale greater **heights** and achieve higher goals for the Lord
- (vi) Stand by him in times of **crisis** involving members of the church.
- (vii) Be **trustworthy** with your tongue
Matthew 12:34 tells us that *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”*
- (viii) Have a sense of **humor**
laughter is a good medicine (**Proverbs 17:22**) for the stressful ministry.
- (ix) Encourage him to have a systematic **study** and pastoral **visits**.
As he gives, he needs to have an input by others.
- (x) Protect him from anything that can hurt or threaten his **reputation**.
- (xi) Demonstrate kindness and **courtesy** to him.
- (xii) Be your husband’s constructive **critic**
- (xiii) Demonstrate by **hospitality** to church members

3. The Pastor as a husband: **Ephesians 5:22-23**

- a) As a head, he is to **lead**: v23
He should lead them in decision-making as well as being the spiritual leader. He should encourage the family to pray together.
- b) He is to **love** as Christ loved: v25, 33

Love is more than an emotion.

¹ Adapted from Stowel, L. Eugene. *The Ministry of Shepherding* (Missouri: Beacon Hill Press, 1976) pp203-215.

- c) He is to **sanctify** or encourage her towards holiness: **v26**
He should encourage her to walk godly and not worldly.
- d) He is to feed and **care**: **v29**
Some husbands care more for the church than for his family.
- e) He should be **considerate** towards her: **1 Peter 3:7**
It's very difficult to be a pastor's wife as she has to bear the burden and problems which her husband encounter.

4. The Pastor as a father: **1 Timothy 3:4 & Ephesians 6:4**

"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect." **1 Timothy 3:4**

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training."

- a) He is to manage his household well so that his children **respect** him as a leader: **1 Timothy 3:4**
- b) He is to exercise **discipline** where necessary: **Proverbs 13:24**
- c) He is to train and **instruct** his children in the ways of the Lord: **Ephesians 6:4**

5. Keys to faithfulness:

- a) Avoid touching or relating to a woman in a way that can be misinterpreted by her or others as inappropriate.
- b) Cultivate a close and honest relationship with your wife.
- c) Avoid deep friendship with the opposite sex.
- d) Guard your thought life. **2 Corinthians 10: 4-5**

C. *The Pastor's relationship with his church members*

1. Recognize that Jesus is the only Chief Shepherd **1 Peter 5:4**

- a) As a Pastor serve **willingly**, not grudgingly : **v2**
- b) Feed them with **spiritual** food : **Matthew 4:4**
- c) Lead by **example** : **1 Corinthians 11:1**
- d) **Train** others to do pastoral work : **2 Timothy 2:2**
- e) Guard against **false** teachings : **1 Timothy : 4:1, 6**

2. Practical things for the Pastor to do as a Shepherd:
 - a) Do **visitation** such as to homes, hospitals, jails, etc. on a regular basis.
 - b) Be present at **critical** moments of their lives such as death, birth, marriage, material loss, etc.

D. The Pastor's relationship with local church leadership

1. The Pastor should aim to always keep the **unity** of the spirit.
Hebrews 12:14

The work of the devil is to bring about disunity and confusion. Jesus prayed his disciples would love one another in **John 13:13**.
2. The Pastor should not view other leaders as a **competitor** but as a fellow-worker to complement him. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

The Pastor should have a humble attitude in relating with other pastors in locality. He should not be proud or envious about another church or pastor.
3. The Pastor should recognize that **wisdom** can come from other leaders:
Proverbs 15:22

The pastor should not think that he “knows-it-all.” He should be open to learn from other pastors so as to sharpen his pastoral skills.
4. The Pastor should seek to **serve** and not dominate. **Mark 10:45**

E. The Pastor's relationship with the local community (village, town and others)

1. Be a **law-abiding** citizen. **Romans 13**
2. Be a **light** for the lost. **Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12**. Jesus is the light.
3. Take opportunity to share the Gospel through good **works**. **Ephesians 5:16**

III. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PASTOR

A. The Pastor and Preaching

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the Word

1. **Plan** your preaching
Be systematic
E.g., Preach and teach through the Books of the Bible
E.g., Preach topical sermons.

3. Be careful in your preaching not to use **illustrations** about people in your congregation.

4. Keep a **record** of what you preach, when you preach and where you preached. Nothing wrong with preaching the same sermon twice

E.g., Paul to Colossians, Ephesians and Romans.

5. Keep **growing** and learning

"Let the wise listen and add to the learning, ..." **Proverbs 1:5a**
Attend courses
Read books

Keep a record of good things you hear.
E.g. 3 x 5 cards.

B. The Pastor and the Worship Service

John 4:24

1. The Worship Service
 - a) The **Call** to Worship

"Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song." **Psalm 95:1-2**

b) **Testimonies**

This is an opportunity for believers to testify to the goodness of the Lord.

c) **Prayer**

The believers can spend time to prayer for one another.

James 5:16

d) **Offering**

Believers should be taught that giving is a form of worship.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

e) **Communion**

A good passage would be 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. The Pastor should explain to the people the significance of the bread and wine.

f) **Preaching**

Ample time should be given to the preaching of the word of God

g) **Closing Worship and altar call**

This is a time for the people to respond to the sermon by coming forward for prayer.

h) Special **baptism** service

The baptismal service is an opportunity for the believer to publicly declare his faith. Some churches conduct it indoors while others in a public place, e.g., a river or seaside.

- (i) Candidates are to be taught the word regarding baptism and repentance.
- (ii) Prepare them to dress appropriately
- (iii) Instruct them on how to give a short testimony
- (iv) A sample baptism ceremony:

Pastor or Leader: "Do you renounce the world, the flesh, and the devil, and by God's grace to put off the old man and his deeds, surrendering to the death of the cross and to the grave, of which this baptism is a type, every fleshly lust and worldly desire?"

Candidate: "I do"

Pastor or leader: "Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son, paid the full penalty of your sins on the cross and hereby confess Him as your personal Savior?"

Candidate: "I do"

Pastor or leader: "By God's grace, will you promise to walk in the newness of life worthy of His name by which you are now baptized?"

Candidate: "I do"

Pastor or leader: "Upon the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I now baptize you (name of Candidate) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!"

(The teacher may want to take 20 minutes to do a practical on the above baptism service.)

2. God is seeking true worshippers

- a) Give **priority** to worship in your church

Psalm 22:3 Enthroned on praises - give prime time

- b) Set aside **finance** to invest in good musical instruments.

Psalm 150: 3-5 Trumpets, harps, lyre, tambourines, flute, cymbals.

- c) Be open to the **Spirit's** leading.

2 Corinthians 3:17 ... freedom

We must not lead worship our own way.

E.g., Psalm 150:4... dancing

Psalm 149... new song

C. *The Pastor and Visitation*

The Pastor has an open door to visit unlike other vocation. Don't wait for an invitation from a church member then only do your visit them. By nature of the fact that you are a shepherd, you need to visit to ensure that the sheep is well.

The pastoral visit is very important as it demonstrates his pastoral heart. Any failure in this area will open the door to criticisms.

1. When you visit, take careful **records** of the visit.
 - When you visited?
 - Time Spent?
 - Where was the visit?
 - What was the problem, if any?
2. Exercise **self-discipline** that you will visit the members whether you feel like it or not.
3. Be careful to exercise **wisdom** when asked to visit the member of the opposite sex.

Bring along some leader or your wife with you.

4. **Plan** your visits properly

Plan geographically so that visitation to the same area can be conducted. This will save time and petrol (if you use a motorbike or car).

5. Visit especially the **sick**

Whether they are in the hospital or at home, the pastor must demonstrate concern by visiting them. Bring encouragement, hope and a positive attitude when you visit them.

6. Remember those that are in **old-folks** homes or the aged in their homes. They can be very lonely without any friends or relatives. Some pastors bring along a team to conduct Holy Communion because some are not able to go to church due to their infirmities.

D. The Pastor and Counseling**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

Members are like sheep - they need guidance. We have a course on *Counseling* in Level 3. Following are some things to bear in mind:

1. Be **scriptural** in counseling: **2 Timothy 3:16**
2. Be **trustworthy** in counseling and don't gossip: **Proverbs 11:13**
3. Be **careful** in counseling the opposite sex.

"Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil".

Romans 14:16

It is good to have another person present when counselling someone of the opposite sex. Counsel in an open space with the doors open.

4. Some signs of a good listener¹ :
 - a) **Looks** at me while I speak
 - b) Ask me **questions** to clarify what I'm saying
 - c) Shows concern by asking me about how I **feel** about the matter
 - d) **Repents** some thing I say
 - e) Don't **rush** me
 - f) Is **emotionally** controlled
 - g) **Responds** with a nod or smile
 - h) Pays close **attention**
 - i) Don't **interrupt** me
 - j) Keeps on the **subject** until I'm finished my thoughts

E. The Pastor and Marriage Preparation

1. Give **premarital** counseling - Husband and wife relationship
Ephesians 5:22-31
2. Give **financial** advice
3. Help **plan** the wedding ceremony

¹ Adapted from Montgomery, Robert L. *Listening Made Easy* (Amacom, 1981)

F. The Pastor and Death

John 11: Jesus & Lazarus' death

1. Visit as soon as possible, when death occurs
2. Help in funeral arrangements
3. Do not forget post-funeral follow-up

G. The Pastor and Dedication

1. Babies: **1 Samuel 1:22**

A good scripture to read is **Mark 10:13-16** or **Matthew 19:13-15**.

Parents should be instructed that it is a solemn responsibility to raise their children in the ways of the Lord. Following is a sample of the ceremony:

Pastor or Leader: "Do you promise to raise your child in the ways of the Lord and seek to lead him or her to accept Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? Do you also promise to set a godly example for your child to follow?"

Parents: "I do"

Pastor or leader: "In the name of the Lord Jesus I dedicate this child, (name of child), to God. Amen!"

2. Buildings, new homes, etc: **2 Chronicles 6**

H. The Pastor and Administration

It is best that the Pastor seek out someone who has a gift of administration to help him. Paul wrote of believers "... *with gifts of administration.*"

1 Corinthians 12:28b.

Sometimes there are not enough people with such talents and it ends up that the Pastor has to do it. Here are some areas of administration.

1. Make sure that letters and correspondences are attended to.

2. Some times a church have a list of its **members**. Keep the list up to date.
3. Ensure that church **properties** are deeded to the name of the church and not the pastor or any one individual.
4. Make sure that the church's **financial** records are in order. It is best to have a trustworthy treasurer and the account books are audited/ checked by a neutral outside company or person. In **2 Corinthian 8:20-21**, Paul tells us to be very careful in the way we handle finance.
5. A secretary should be appointed to ensure that all meetings are properly recorded.
6. Make sure that church **buildings** are properly looked after. Where a repair needs to be done, the administrator or Pastor will have to look into it. The church premises are to keep clean, especially common areas like toilets. Although God looks at the heart, "*Man looks on the outward appearance.*"

I. The Pastor and Caring for his leaders

As the church grows bigger, so will his staff of co-workers and leaders. The Pastor must look into their well-being so that they can be effective. Although these points are covered in our *Leadership* courses, here are some highlights:

1. **Train** them adequately for the ministry.

Your other leaders will feel frustrated if you give them a job to do without training them to do it.
2. Have special functions to demonstrate your **appreciation** of their contribution toward the success of the church.
3. Those who have served faithfully should be sent for further training and **upgrading** of skills. Some Pastors will send their leaders for special Bible or leadership courses.

*Appendix A*¹

There are many versions with slight variations of the basic one given below:

(When the wedding party is in place, the Minister will begin)

Dear Friends, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocence, signifying to us the mystical union which is between Christ and His Church.

Which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence at the first miracle which He wrought in Cana of Galilee; and is commanded of the Apostle Paul to be honourable among all men, and is therefore not to be entered into lightly or unadvisably, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

Into which holy estate these two persons come now to be joined and to unite two hearts and lives, blending all interest, sympathies, and hopes. I charge and entreat you, therefore in entering upon and sustaining this hallowed union, to seek the favour and blessing of Him whose favour is life, whose blessing maketh rich and addeth no sorrow. Let us now seek His blessing.

[The Minister will call on all Present to bow in prayer]

Our Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to come by Thy grace to this marriage. Give to these who marry a due sense of the obligations they are now to assume, so that with true intent, and with utter unreserve of love, they may give their vows, and be henceforth help meet for each other while they journey through life. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

[The Minister will proceed]

I now therefore charge, that if any can show just cause why these may not be lawfully joined together, let him speak, or else hereafter hold his peace.

I charge you both as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that true love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy home. If the solemn vows you are about to make be kept inviolate, and if you steadfastly endeavour to do the will of your heavenly Father, your lives will be full of joy, and the home you are about to establish will abide in peace.

¹ Adapted from *When Two Shall Be One* by Mrs. Ang Siew Khim.

No other human ties are more tender, no other vows are more sacred than these you are about to assume. You are entering into that holy institution which is the deepest mystery of experience, and which is the very sacrament of divine love.

[The Minister will address the man]

“..... will you have this woman (name of bride) to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony; will you love her, comfort her, honour, and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep thou only unto her so long as you both shall live? (The man will answer) I will.

[The Minister will address the woman]

“..... , will you have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy institution of matrimony? Will you obey him, and serve him, love, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

(The woman will answer) I will.

[The Minister will address the father of the bride]

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(The father will answer) I do.

[The Minister will quietly suggest that the man with his right hand take the right hand of the woman, and repeat after him the following]:

(Man's first name).take you (Woman's first name) to be my wedded wife... to have and to hold, From this day forward, for better, for worse, For richer, for poorer ... In sickness and in health, To love and to cherish ... till death do us part, According to God's holy ordinance ... and hereby I give you my promise.

[The Pastor will quietly suggest that the woman with her right hand will take the right hand of the man and repeat]

I..... take you..... to be my wedded husband ... to have and to hold, From this day forward ... for better, for worse, For richer, for poorer ... in sickness and in health, To love and to cherish ... till death do us part. According to God's holy ordinance and hereby I give you my promise.

[The Minister will suggest to the Bride that she hands her bouquet to the Maid of Honour, he will then address the Groom]:

What pledge do you give of the sincerity of your vows?

[The Best Man will obtain the Bride's ring, hand it to the Groom who in turn hands it to the Minister. The Minister addresses the Bride]

Do You accept this ring as a pledge of the sincerity of his vows?

(The Bride will answer) I do.

[The Minister will hand the ring to the Groom who places it on the third finger, left hand of the Bride and repeats after the Minister the following]:

With this ring I take you in marriage ... and with all my worldly goods upon you I bestow, In the Name of the Father ... and of the Son ... and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

[The Minister will say];

And may this circlet of pure gold which has no end, be henceforth the chaste and changeless symbol of your evermore pure and changeless affection.

[The Minister will address the Bride]:

What pledge do you give of the sincerity of your vows?

[The Maid of Honour will hand the Groom's ring to the Bride who will in turn hand it to the Minister who then addresses the Groom];

Do you accept this ring as a pledge of the sincerity of her vows?

(The Groom will answer) I do

[The Minister will hand the ring to the Bride who places it upon the Groom's third finger, left hand as she repeats after the Minister the following]:

I give you this ring ... in token and pledge ... of my constant faith ... and abiding love.

[The Minister will say];

And may this ring given, be the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites your two hearts in love that has no end.

(At this point the Minister may offer a brief prayer of ring dedication if desired).

[The Minister shall continue]:

Forasmuch as (Man's first name) and (woman's first name) have consented in holy wedlock, and have thereto confirmed the same by giving and receiving each one a ring; by the authority committed to me as a minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, I now declare you husband and wife according to the ordinance of God, and the laws of the state of; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

(The groom may gently lift the Bride's veil and kiss his bride.)

[The Minister suggests that the couple shall kneel and continues]:

Dearly beloved ones, this day marks a new era in your lives now united. From henceforth you travel life's pathway not alone, but together. Let love be forever enthroned in your united hearts: As members of the church of Jesus Christ, we earnestly commend you to our Heavenly Father, asking Him that according to His abundant grace, He may bestow upon you both the Spirit of Grace, enabling you to establish a Christian home where the voice of prayer and praise shall as sweet incense continually ascend unto Him who hath purchased you with His own precious blood.

May your experience as you travel down life's pathway together, be like unto the experience of the disciples who journeyed together from Jerusalem to Emmaus, of whom we read that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. And may heaven's constant benediction crown your union with the ever-increasing joy and blessedness and true affection of a happy marriage.

[The Minister will address the congregation]:

Let us all bow our heads in a prayer of dedication.

O God, our heavenly Father, Thou alone art the Source and Author of all life. Thou art the Protector and Guide on life's pathway. Thou alone art the Builder and Maker of homes. Now grant, we pray Thee, the blessings of Thy promises, and the aid of Thy Holy Spirit to these dear ones, enabling them to honour Thee, and to be ever true to the pledges made to each other. May Thy grace in abundant measure be theirs, helping them to walk in Thy truth, to abide in Thy fellowship, and to live in perfect peace and love with each other until their earthly life shall end in Thy glorious presence. This we ask in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And now, may the Lord bless thee and keep thee. May the Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Amen.

(At this point while the couple signs the register, the soloist/choir may sing an appropriate prayer hymn or song of consecration).

[The Minister will indicate to the couple that they may rise]

And now it is my happy privilege to congratulate and introduce to you Mr. and Mrs.....

(The organist will immediately strike up the recessional with the entire wedding party moving down the aisle to the rear of the church).

Lists of References:

1. Larson, Bruce, Anderson, Paul and Self, Doug. *Mastering Pastoral Care* (Oregon: Christianity Today, Inc. 1990).
2. Montgomery, Robert L. *Listening Made Easy* (Amacom, 1981).
3. Riggs, Ralph. M. *The Spirit-Filled Pastor's Guide* (Missouri Gospel Publishing House, 1948).
4. Rozell V., Jack. *Pastoral Ministries* (Belgium : International Correspondence Institute, 1980).
5. Stowel, L. Eugene. *The Ministry of Shepherding* (Missouri: Beacon Hill Press, 1976, pp. 203-215).