

Shepherd the Flock of God

Servants Retreat 2013



A Privilege

- Service is a privilege
 - John 15:16 - You did not choose Me, but **I chose you** and **appointed you** that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...
 - Numbers 18:7 - Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil; and you shall serve. **I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service...**
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A Privilege

- We are stewards over His children/flock
- Acts 20:28 – Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God **which He purchased with His own blood.**



An honor

- He calls the shepherds by His name



An honor: Servant

- Is. 42:1-3 – “Behold! **My Servant** whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. 2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.”
- Parable of the Talents – “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own **servants** and delivered his goods to them.” (Matt. 25:14)
- Mark 10:43 – “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be **your servant**.”

An honor: The Lily

- SS 2:1-2 – I am the rose of Sharon,
And **the lily** of the valleys.
- SS 2:16 – My beloved is mine, and I
am his. **He feeds his flock among
the lilies.**
- SS 6:3 – I am my beloved's, And my
beloved is mine. He **feeds his flock
among the lilies.**
- Mature lilies freely submit their will to
His will, for the benefit of others



An honor: Physician

- Matt. 4:23 – “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”
- Matthew Chapters 5-7
- Matthew Chapter 8-9
 - Cleansing of Leper, healing centurion's servant, healing the paralytic, raising of Jairus's daughter, etc.
- Matt. 10:1 - And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and **to heal** all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.
- Matt. 10:7-8 - And as you go, **preach**, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ **Heal the sick**, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

An honor: Shepherd

- ▣ John 10:11 – “I am the **good shepherd**.”
- ▣ Acts 20:28 – Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd the church of God** which He purchased with His own blood.



The Flock

“Shepherd the flock **of God** which is **among you**, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over **those entrusted to you**, but being examples to the flock.”
(1Pet. 5:2-3)

- ▣ If His
 - ▣ Includes everyone
 - ▣ Especially those entrusted to you
 - ▣ We do not choose the flock
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Instructions for the shepherds

- 1 Peter 5:2-5 – Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by compulsion but **willingly**, not for dishonest gain but **eagerly**; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but **being examples** to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 5 Likewise you younger people, **submit yourselves to your elders**. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*”

1. Serve as overseers

- Overseer = epi-skopos
- Protect – from deceptive ideologies
- Train
 - Eph. 6:11 – Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. Serve not by compulsion, but willingly

- Should not be forced upon anyone
- Should be done cheerfully out of love
- Egocentrism
 - “Do I serve for the sake of my ego?”



3. Serve not for dishonest gain, but eagerly

- Honor from others
- Monetary incentives
- Using service to promote oneself or agenda
 - What's the word I'm looking for?
 - Put it on my resume



4. Not as lord, but by example

- ▣ 1 Peter 5:3 – nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock...
- ▣ Not looking down upon others
- ▣ Examples
 - ▣ During services, but more so outside of church activities
 - ▣ Your mere presence is a statement
 - ▣ Speech
 - ▣ Dress
 - ▣ Character – honesty
- ▣ You are there for their salvation not for them to make you feel good.

5. We will give an account

- 1 Peter 5:4 – ...**when the Chief Shepherd appears**, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.
- Parable of the Talents
 - Matt. 25:21 - 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'
 - Matt. 25:26-28 – 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So **take the talent from him**, and give it to him who has ten talents.'

6. Submit to hierarchy

- 1 Peter 5:5 –Likewise you younger people, **submit yourselves to your elders**. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*”
- “younger” – position or age
- Why is submission essential?
 - Heb. 13:17 – Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. **Let them do so with joy and not with grief**, for that would be unprofitable for you.
 - Productivity increases with joy

The Incentive

- 1 Peter 5:4 – ...and when the Chief Shepherd appears, **you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.**
 - Luke 18:29-30 – “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who **shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.**”
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Questions/Comments
