

WITHOUT A PASTOR YOU'RE A SPIRITUAL DISASTER!

Disaster: *out of order, disobedient, underprivileged, failure, disorder, in shambles, fiasco, mischance, trouble, unbiblical, identity crises, failure, problematic, ruination, ungodly.*

Who is your pastor? Sadly, many people cannot answer this simple question confidently. Truth be told: If a pastor doesn't know your name, that person is NOT your pastor. And just because you admire some TV preacher doesn't mean YOU get to choose them as your "pastor". There is a big difference between a pastor and a preacher. Every pastor is a preacher, but not every preacher is a pastor. The New Testament presents the pastor (the under shepherd) as the head, the chief servant above all other church leadership.

The word *pastor* comes from a Latin word which means, "shepherd." And unless you think you're smarter than God, you need one! It's not optional.

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:15 (1599 Geneva Bible)

Why would God give it if you didn't need it? Apparently, God doesn't feel like you can feed yourself the way a pastor can. The Bible teaches us that the pastor is given to the church as a gift. And it's a gift that keeps on giving!

There is no person on the face of this earth that is more important in the life of the believer than the pastor. Every child of God must of necessity be under the direct leadership of a pastor. Even pastors must be able to depend, receive needed advice from and even be amenable to someone.

According to the word of God, your pastor is the Leader, Feeder, Preacher, Teacher, Prophet, Priest, Shepherd, Servant, Steward, Watchman, Governor, Minister, Messenger, Tutor, Chief Presbyter, Bishop & Overseer in the local assembly.

It is the height of arrogance to believe that YOU can be all of that for yourself. And even if you could, (and you cannot) the Bible teaches us that GOD will *give you* a pastor. It's unlikely that you could have picked your own. And it's impossible that you ARE your own. You may think you did, and you may think you are, but you did not; you have been deceived! You may not like God's choice, but obedience is better than sacrifice. He alone is God, and he will do all of His pleasure!

I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:4 (English Standard Version)

People without pastors:

1. Hop from church to church, seeking a “word” from every place.
2. Lack spiritual discipline and biblical understanding.
3. Are easily deceived by satan (and don’t know it)
4. Are not receiving the pastoral covering and anointing that flows down
5. Are deceived, thinking a television preacher can shepherd them Usually rob God, not tithing or giving Gods tenth in the wrong place. Like the folks in Deuteronomy 14:23 were admonished against.
6. Are disobeying the scriptures concerning being shepherded.
7. Usually violate Hebrews 10:25 (not forsaking the assembling)
8. Are leaning to their own understanding.

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting...

Titus 1:5 (KJV)

All disasters need a cleanup team. A God-given pastor is the leader of the team! Pastors set and keep order. Order in the church, order in the lives of the saints, order in troubled marriages and order wherever the devil rears his ugly head. Satan hates order, which is why most renegade, church hopping, so called Christians refuse to humble themselves and sit under a local shepherd.

Notice that in the 1 Timothy passage Paul refers to them as overseers (*episcopos* in the Greek), and in Titus, he refers to them as elders (*presbuteros* in Greek).

The word *elder* refers to the life experience of the office holder, while the word *overseer* emphasizes the responsibility of the office holder to watch over the congregation and meet their spiritual needs.

Acts 20:28 (King James Version)

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Your pastor’s job is to bring the flock into maturity, and to guard against heresy. He is on guard for false teachers. The pastor is also charged by God to warn those who stray and rebuke those who willingly disobey God, letting them know that there are consequences to their belief and behavior.

Unbeknownst to most Christians, God has a special message and even counseling wisdom specifically for them, but at times He can only reveal it through the ministry of the pastor that He ordained for them.

In Ephesians 4:11, the apostle Paul let us know that God gifts His churches and people with a pastor/teacher as shepherd.

So, who is your pastor? If you don't have one, this is a great day to repent, and a fine day to claim the gift that God has given to you!

Yep, I said it!

I just hope somebody's listening!