

# The Biblical Pastor

“Being ensamples to the flock” 1 Peter 5:3

“Remember them which have the rule over you (govern you, i.e. your pastor)... whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” Hebrews 13:7



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**The Model of God – The church is a divine organization of redeemed that congregate in order to confess Jesus Christ as their Savior, in order to prepare themselves for the work of God, and in order to accomplish the work of God, which is the evangelization of the world. God annulled the Old Testament priesthood and installed a new priesthood of every believer. God instituted the church with elders that pastor and deacons that serve officially. These are the “officials” but God equips each one to exercise their gift in the work of God.**

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## I. The Biblical Evidence for the Ministry of Supervision.

A. God has established a specific person as responsible for the church, i.e., the pastor.

**Passages that speak of supervision: Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1; 1 Cor. 16:15-16.**

B. Pastors should be full time, i.e., living of their ministries.

**EXTRA: Everybody should live of the fruit of their hands Eph 4:28; 1 Thess 4:11-12.**

**Passages: Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor 9:9-10, 14;; 1 Tim. 5:17.**

## II. Description of the Work of Supervision (Bishop-Pastor)

A. Images of a pastor o shepherd (someone who cares for sheep)

**The goals of the owner for his sheep and shepherd:**

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Protection. | 3. Fruitfulness. |
| 2. Health.     | 4. Reproduction. |

**Description of the work of someone who cares for sheep:**

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. A one to one relationship.                         | 4. Feed the sheep.                   |
| 2. Distinguish and separate the sheep from the goats. | 5. Seek and give water to the flock. |
| 3. Gather the flock.                                  | 6. Seek rest for the flock.          |
|   | 7. Protect the flock.                |

B. Primary Objective: That the Church does the work of God

**Definition of the work of God:**

1. Preach the Gospel
2. Repentance
3. Increase their Faith
4. Public Confesión of Christ
5. Membership – Identification with Christ and the Redeemed
6. Discipleship, Growth, Maturity
7. Evangelism

## C. The Daily Tasks of a Pastor

### 1. Feed the Sheep

**PASSAGES:** Jer. 3:15, Acts 20:28; Nehemiah 8:8; 2 Tim. 4:2, 13; Titus 1:13; 2:15.

### 2. Advise (Counsel) and Protect.

**Problems of sheep without a pastor (or without a Biblical Pastor):**

- (1) Sheep do not eat well, or eat nothing, or eat things that make them sick.
- (2) Sheep are victims of predators (False Prophets, Heresy, or Sin).
- (3) Sheep disperse, they are fearful of many things that are nothing dangerous, and are terrorized (paralyzed) at dangers, and live in a constant state of trauma and stress.
- (4) Sheep stop producing any type of fruit (milk, quality wool).
- (5) Sheep stop reproducing (no baby sheep are produced).

**PASSAGES:** Mat. 24:11; 1 John 4:1; Acts 20:29-31; 2 Peter 2:1.

### 3. Pastoral Visitation (Watchcare)

**PASSAGES:** Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ezekiel 34:2, 4-5

- (1) For Prevention of Problems: Strengthen the weak.
- (2) Counseling to Confront Sin: Cure the sick.
- (3) Encourage the demoralized: Bind the broken.
- (4) Return the wayward: Seek the Lost.

### 4. Admonitions and Warnings for the Pastor

- (1) Do not consume more than what is just.
- (2) Know the will of God and focus exclusively on that.
- (3) Create and maintain an environment of evangelism, growth, and fruit bearing.
- (4) Do not dominate (be a dictator), rather be an example and a steward of God.

## III. Requirements for the Pastor

Requirements for those that take care of sheep.

- A. Blameless
- B. Somebody that governs his own house
- C. Husband of one single wife – only men, stable home
- D. Vigilant.
- E. Sober.
- F. Not Given to Wine.
- G. Not covetous, no desiring dishonest gain.
- H. Of good conduct.
- I. Showing Hospitality
- J. Apt to teach.
- K. Not a striker.
- L. Patient.
- M. Not a novice.

**A Bishop (position) is an  
elder (quality of the person) that pastors**

**Titus 1:5-7** For this cause left I thee in Crete... and **ordain elders** in every city...  
**7 For a bishop** must be blameless, as the steward of God;

**Elder and Bishop is the same person**

**1 Peter 5:1 The elders** which are among you... **2 Feed the flock of God** (word actually is to pastor) which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*...

**Elders “pastor” the flock of God**

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers** (literally “bishop”), **to feed** (literally to pastor) the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**Bishops pastor the Church of God**

**Elder – speaks of the quality of person, experienced, wise.**

**Bishop – speaks of the position of supervision, administration, governing.**

**Pastor – is a verb of taking care of others**

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**INTRO:** The Bible uses three different words to reference to those in leadership in the local church:

**“Elder”** – quality of being older and having more wisdom and experience than the rest;

**“Bishop”** – literally overseer, position of a person who has the responsibility before God for the spiritual care of the flock of God. (requirements on it in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3).

**“Pastor”** – this is actually a spiritual gift of taking care of and leading God’s people.

## I. Biblical Proof of the Ministry of Oversight

### A. God has appointed certain people as responsible for the church.

**Heb 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

**“Rule”** – to lead, command with official authority, to govern, to have the rule over. Make executive decisions for the entire group, decide destination, path, and way of getting there.

- God’s people are commanded to be **obedient to those who have rule over them.**
- These leaders are the **ones who speak (preach/teach) the word of God** to them.

**“Follow”** – to imitate, copy for yourself.

- They are **public examples of the man of God**, what God wants Christians to be.
- The **example of their life and faith** are what we are to focus on and follow.
- **Leaders must give account to God for each individual** under their watch care.
- The overseer’s job as given from God is to **correct whatever is wrong.**
- **Accountability and responsibility = authority.** (Mayor with no authority or decision making power cannot be held responsible for what happens to his city.)
- **God’s purpose** in placing overseers is for **the correction of the flock** so that they **please God and be rewarded** for a beautiful and spiritually fruitful life in eternity.
- **The overseer is a servant under God**, and must respond to God’s will and design.

**“Obey”** – to convince by argument, evidence or authority. To pacify or conciliate by fair means, to agree, assure, have confidence in, make friend, obey, trust, yield to.

- **Authority is based on God’s word.** That is what decides. God’s will is the desired course for the church, and that is expressed in the word of God.

**“Watch”** – to be sleepless, i.e. keep awake

- The overseer-bishop is to **keep God’s people awake**, on track of God’s work, God’s plans, and order things in a way that pleases God.

**1 Pet 5:1** The elders which are among you I exhort, ...2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

- **Oversight is spiritual feeding.** Leadership is thru explanation of God’s Word.
- **His leadership style is not as a dictator (lord).** Absolute control of everything.

**“Lord over”** – to lord against, control, subjugate, exercise dominion over.





- He is the **living local pattern of Christ** for Christians to model their lives after.

*“Examples” – a die which is struck with a hammer to make an impression. The model from from which copies are made..*

- **Key character qualities** – (1) **Willing** to do this voluntarily, not by compulsion of others. (2) Type of person who **doesn’t abuse for personal financial enrichment**. (3) ready mind – **alacrity** (willingness manifested by quick, lively action)

**1Cor 16:15** *I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that **they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.**)*

**16** **That ye submit yourselves unto such,** and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.

- We should **submit to those who labor serving the saints, doing the will of God.**

### **B. Overseers should live of their ministries.**

**Gal 6:6** *Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.*



- God’s people should financially **give to those who teach/preach the word of God to them.**

**1Cor 9:14** *Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

- God’s ministers should receive a **livable wage** from the people receiving their services. This includes and is especially for those who are overseers.

**1Cor 9:9** *For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? **10** this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.*



- **Ministers should live from the ministry they do.** They should not have to look to secular work to support themselves.

**1Ti 5:17** *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*

- **Overseers (elders that rule) should receive double recompense;** especially those that teach and work in doctrine (counsel sheep and refute/fight wolves).

**1Ti 5:18** *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*



- A minister’s **recompense should reflect the quality of work** that he does. **Hard worker, good quality – more. Lazy, poor quality– less.**

## **II. Job Description of an Overseer (bishop) – Pastor.**

### **A. Imagery of a “shepherd” or “pastor”.**

- **Shepherds are not usually owners, but are faithful, responsible workers.**

### **OWNER’S GOALS FOR SHEEP AND SHEPHERD**

1. **PROTECTION** – prevent the untimely death of sheep from predators.
2. **HEALTH** – prevent and treat sickness and injuries of the sheep.
3. **FRUITFUL** – cause them to produce their fruit or product, milk and wool.
4. **REPRODUCTION** – cause them to reproduce more sheep.

## JOB DESCRIPTION OF A SHEPHERD OF SHEEP

1. **One to one relationship** – He counts his flock, and personally knows each one of his flock.
2. **Distinguishes and separates sheep from goats**, what is truly his charge from those that are not his charge. He knows those under his watch care.
3. **Gathers the flock** – seeks to keep those under his care close, under his protection.
4. **Feeds the flock** – provides and maintains a healthy environment whereby the flock can feed and grow. This involves changing the environment from time to time so that they can continue to get a steady and balanced diet of what they need.
5. **Waters the flock** – seeks refreshing from the grazing for his flock.
6. **Seeks rest for the flock** – an environment safe from harm, in which they can be renewed for the next day's traveling.
7. **Protects the flock** - He builds sheepcotes. He is constantly **vigilant to warn against dangers** to the sheep. He **risks his own life and welfare to defend the sheep** against harm. He trains dogs to take advantage of their better eyes and ears in perceiving dangers to the flock.

### B. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: Get the work of the Lord done by the church.

The **work of the Lord** can be defined as:

- (1) **Preaching the gospel**, clearly and forcefully to all the world.
- (2) Revelation of God's wrath over the sinner's sin (**produce repentance** in them).
- (3) Urgency of faith pressed upon the believer (**increase their faith**).
- (4) Public confession of sin and declaration of faith most especially seen in the act of baptism (**baptism should be public profession of salvation**).
- (5) Identification with Christ and the redeemed of Christ through **membership and participation in a biblical, sound local church**. (not left shepherdless, but under watch care of a good local church)
- (6) Inculcating the teaching and principles of the Christian faith such that the disciple knows and does it as a part of his nature. (**Discipleship, growth, maturity**)
- (7) **Reproduction** through every believer participating in evangelism and discipleship.

### C. ACTUAL DUTIES OF PASTORS

#### (1) **Feed the flock.**

**Jer 3:15** *And I will give you **pastors** according to mine heart, **which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.***

**Acts 20:28** ***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.*

*"Take heed" – to hold the mind towards, pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to.  
"to feed" – to tend as a shepherd of, feed (cattle), rule.*

**1Pe 5:2** ***Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **John 21:17** ... Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** ... Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.***



- Feeding as a shepherd means guiding, leading, directing, and **making executive decisions about the welfare and state of the flock** – where, when and how they do the business they are to do.



- **Feeding and ruling is bound up in the same thing.** You cannot teach and preach the Bible alone. **You must correct what is wrong in your people, and encourage and guide them to do what is right (God’s will).**
- “Feeding the flock” = **preaching, teaching, and applying God’s word.**

**Neh 8:8** *So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*

- They must preach the Bible, explain the Bible texts, and cause people to understand and apply it to their own lives.

**2 Tim 4:2** *preach the word*

**1Tim 4:13** *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

**Tit 1:13** *Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

**Tit 2:15** *These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority.*



- **Feeding means preaching against the sins of your people so that they will correct their sins (repent) and be sound in their spiritual lives, please God, and produce the fruit (holiness and fruit of the Spirit), and reproduce (evangelism).** Pastors do this **by the authority of God.**

## **(2) WARN AND PROTECT**

### **PROBLEMS OF SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP (Sheep which have no shepherd)**

- (1) Sheep don’t eat well, or not at all, or things that make them sick.
- (2) **Sheep are victims to predators** (false prophets, heresy and false doctrine, sin).
- (3) **Sheep scatter, fearful of anything, terrorized by dangers, (live in state of trauma).**
- (4) Sheep cease from producing fruit. (no milk, inferior wool).
- (5) Sheep don’t reproduce sheep.

**Mt 24:11** *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

**1Jo 4:1** *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

**Acts 20:29** *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

**2Pe 2:1** *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

- It is the Pastor’s job to **warn the sheep of doctrinal error** and/or **initiate church discipline** on ungodly conduct of those that call themselves Christians.
- False prophets will **identify themselves as “one of us”**, out of our own church.
- False prophets will **make disciples to their systems, doctrines, and practices (kids always depend)** instead of making mature Christians that walk in Christian liberty, serving and pleasing God (**adults that reproduce adults**).
- **“Denying the Lord”** – Person who claims Christ yet does not keep God’s commandments. **1John 2:6** *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. **You deny Christ when you profess and do not live it.***
- **Discernment of the pastor** should be much greater than that of the sheep. Sheep generally do not perceive dangers to themselves until it is too late.
- **Pastoral warnings should be heeded** by the sheep for their own good.

### **(3) Spiritual Watch Care and Pastoral Visitation.**

**Heb 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

“Pastoral visitation” – The shepherd makes a sheep gate (stretch of wall with a narrow door). The shepherd stands in the gate, and **individually inspects each sheep** completely, applying medicine to wounds or cuts, binding broken bones, removing burrs and stickers, and then pushes the sheep through the door to the other side. **Individual personal inspection of every person’s life to fix whatever is wrong** with it so that that person is the best he can be for the Lord: **fruitful, productive, no life dominating sins.**

**Ezekiel 34:2** prophesy against the shepherds of Israel ...**4** The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; **5** And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

1. **Strengthened the worn out** – “diseased” means weak from **frenzied activity**, pain, or twisting. These things wedge themselves into our lives. Pastors strengthen spiritual lives weakened by mindless activity and “Christianity is a list” mentalities by binding the principles of the word of God to their lives. **Prevention of problems**
2. **Heal the sick** – The problem is the same but, but this fixes/cures the problem by mending (stitching two things together, **Word of God**). **Counseling to confront sin**
3. **Binding up the broken** (burst) – **Hard experiences** can cause a broken Christian life. The Pastor must pick up the pieces and bind the word of God on him such that the sin damage done does not make the Christian permanently useless and fruitless for Christ. **Comfort & consolation to overcome demoralizing events**
4. **Bring back the driven away** (**those pushed off from the group**) – Many things cause people to leave the church: simple offenses by fellow Christians, church discipline on sin (theirs or others) and even some actions by the pastor himself. The pastor is to seek those that don’t come, to integrate them into a place of fruitfulness and labor in the local church. **Return to God’s focus of growth and reproduction**

#### **D. WARNINGS TO THE PASTORS:**

**(1) Pastors do not consume more than is just.**

**Jer 10:21** For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

“brutish” - to kindle, i.e. consume (by fire or by eating), waste

**Eze 34:2** Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, ... Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? **3** Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

**Isa 56:11** Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

- Pastors exercise self sacrifice for the sake of the sheep and work of the Lord.

(2) Pastors know God's will, focus on that exclusively.

**Jer 2:8** *The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.*

**Jer 23:16** *Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD. **21** I have not sent these prophets, ... **22** But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. **26** How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; **28** ... and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. ...*

- The only way to know God's will is to know his word.
- Good pastors are good students, and good teachers of what they have learned.
- Pastor's job is to reveal sin in the congregation, reveal what God says about it, exhort and facilitate repentance. **Never overlook sin or problems within his charge.**
- Pastor focuses on what is of eternal value, not vanity or vain things (things empty of eternal value).
- Pastors must repeat the word of God faithfully.

**Jer 23:30** *Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. **32** Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.;*

- Pastors are not marked by lightness, vanity, nor folly, i.e. their preaching and lives are not full of jokes, purposeless stories, nor things such as hobbies, sports, entertainment, and selfish things that are void of eternal value.

(3) Pastors produce an atmosphere conducive to growth and reproduction of sheep.

**Jer 23:1** *Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! ... **2** Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. **3** And I will gather the remnant ...and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.*

**Jer 23:4** *And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.*

(4) Pastors are not overlords, but God's steward & example, ruling God's people.

**1Pet 5:3** Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

NT church discipline and decisions was by the will of the people, not by edict of the pastor. The church members MUST know issues, understand related Scriptures, and personally hold correct doctrine and practice. **The church's doctrine and practice are defined by** (1) what their members believe and do, and (2) the standard that they ascribe to (Scriptures).



### III. Qualifications for Pastor-overseer (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1)

#### A. Qualifications of keepers of sheep.

- (1) Wisdom to know where good feeding is found, & how to get it.
- (2) Wisdom to treat sheep with problems to restore them to health.
- (3) Bravery to face predators or problems without hesitation or fear.
- (4) Watchfulness in detecting predators or harm to the sheep.
- (5) Skill in keeping sheep together – not wandering off.
- (6) Determination to return lost sheep to the fold.
- (7) Ability to establish and keep a good relationship with sheep so that they will follow him.

 **Pastoral qualifications are the standard which all Christians profess, and is really God's standard for all of us.** Pastors are good examples of what all of us should be.

#### B. Blameless

**1Peter 5:3** *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*

- (1) The Pastor must have such a life as to be a **perfect example** of a Christian. "Perfect" is not sinless, but an adult example of the species, fully mature.
- (2) A bad example of how a Christian should be would disqualify the man from the ministry.

**1Tim 3:10** *And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. (just like the bishop)*

- (3) Pastor (and deacon) is to **have proven lives** before they enter office.

#### C. Ruleth well his house – faithful administrator of what God gives him.

- (1) A good husband and father will make a good pastor.

#### D. Husband of one wife – stable home life.

- (1) **Married to only one woman** – divorce is not being an example to the rest of the church. Can you say "we church members should be like the pastor". If not, then he is not an example! **1 Peter 5:3**
- (2) Must be a man, **ruling his family well**, in such a fashion that **we as church members would desire to be in the pastor's family.**

#### E. Vigilant – searching for danger, warning of its presence.

- (1) **He must know** the trends of Christianity and the perils, threats, and problems within it. He must not be gullible or ignorant.
- (2) **He must be able** to warn, reprove, and rebuke and stand against these threats to the sheep's welfare.
- (3) **He must be willing to risk** what is necessary to succeed in this warning. (**Warn sheep and they cluster around the shepherd. Warn dogs and you often get bitten!**)

#### F. Sober minded – sound minded

- (1) He must use **logical and biblical thought processes**. He must exegete Scripture perfectly, clearly, and to the point.
- (2) He must hold to a **high view of the authority of God's word**. This means he must have a constant drive to establish his actions, his

governing, and everything on some correctly exegeted Scripture.  
**“Proof texting”<sup>1</sup> Scripture disqualifies him.**

**G. Not Given to Wine – not given over to addictive habits or substances.**

- (1) This is the negative or opposite of being sober.
- (2) Not given over to impulsive actions and decisions. He must be an example of self-control. (Temperance **Gal 5:23**)



**H. Not covetous, not greedy of filthy lucre.**

- (1) **The man of God renounces money, wealth, and economic stability as the end goals of this life and his life’s main priority.**
- (2) The church is to **give their pastor a livable wage.**
- (3) The pastor must **be satisfied** with what God provides for him.
- (4) The pastor must not take more than what he needs.

**I. Good Behavior – showing good works at all times.**

- (1) Pastor’s forcefulness is in the example of his own life, full of good works.



**J. Hospitable – showing kindness and the love of God to others.**

- (1) **Mat 25:33-46 – How we treat our brethren is how we would treat God if He was physically present among us.**

**K. Apt to Teach – always ready to explain the why and wherefore.**

**L. Not a Striker, Not a Brawler – calm, patient, not looking for a fight.**

- (1) Striker means to be quick to fight, or pick a fight.
- (2) Brawler means to love scandalous long fights, stubborn to fight beyond what is reasonable.

**2Ti 2:24** And **the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,** **25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;** **26** And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.



- (3) **Arrogance and pride are the marks of the devil (Isaiah 14:12-14), but Christ and his servants are marked by meekness and gentleness (2 Cor 10:1 “meekness and gentleness of Christ ... weapons of our warfare”).**

**M. Patient – ability to last as long as God wants.**

- (1) Not the kind of person who lives on instant gratification.
- (2) He understands the processes of life and spiritual life, and respects them. He treats new Christians as babes, waiting until they mature.

**N. Not a Novice – somebody who is not new to the ministry.**

- (1) He is well acquainted with the ministry, its problems, rewards, and frustrations.

**CONCLUSION:** God does prepare and call men of God to oversee his church. We must strive towards these standards, and never be satisfied until we reach them and keep them.

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<sup>1</sup> “Proof texting” is when you grab a verse out of context, and twist it to fit your preconceived conclusion.