

Ephesians 4:11-16 - The Purpose of a P.A.S.T.O.R.

Intro - It is good for a preacher to be preached to. You have heard of “preaching to the choir” ... well today I am going to “preach to the pulpit.” The Bible has much to say about the duty and role of a pastor. Scripture dictates character qualifications for the pastor as well as his job description. Two high profile “pastors” resigned recently (Robert Morris & Tony Evans) one of which should never have been a pastor – (R.M. disqualified himself decades ago - ironic that the “pastor” of the largest church in America was not qualified to be a pastor). Our text today addresses the “why” and the “what” of a pastor (not the who). Have you ever wondered why Jesus gave pastors to His church and what exactly is the pastors responsibility? Ephesians 4 lays out the purpose of a pastor. So, today I am *preaching to the pulpit*, and you get to “a-men” as I deliver a message in a mirror. Please know that his subject matter is just a good for *the pew* as it is for *the pulpit*...we all need to know the purpose of a pastor so *the pew* knows what to expect and holds the pastor responsible and so *the pulpit* will know what he will be judged by on that great judgment day. Pastor = shepherd. The pastor is to show love to his LORD by feeding the sheep. If he doesn’t feed the sheep then he doesn’t love The Chief Shepherd and that pastor is a poor under-shepherd. We will look at the *Hierarchy of the Teaching Ministry* as well as use the acrostic P.A.S.T.O.R. to describe the purpose of a pastor in the local church.

The Hierarchy of the Teaching Ministry

- Eph. 4:11 “And He gave...”
 - Context - Christ gave gifts to His church - 4:7-8 Each member has a gift
 - Two main categories of gifts - speaking gifts & serving gifts - 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Hierarchy of the teaching gifts
 - 4:11 1 Cor. 12:28
 - Apostles & Prophets are foundational gifts - Eph. 2:20
 - Apostles ^(sent ones) were directly sent by Jesus & had to see the risen Lord
 - Prophets spoke directly from God what was revealed by God
 - Pastors & teachers expound upon what the Apostles & Prophets taught
 - There are no Apostles or Prophets today
- Christ gave gifts to His church by way of the teaching ministry
 - Pastors/Teachers are given a function for the good of the church
 - Pastors are to be worthy of honor when they work hard and at their calling
 - 1 Tim. 5:17

The Purpose of a P.A.S.T.O.R.

- P 4:12a
 - Provide something on Sunday to prepare them for Monday
 - The pastor is to provide something to help you live out faith every day of week
 - If your faith is only real one day a week, it’s either really weak or not real
 - The pastoral ministry is an equipping ministry - providing something useful
 - Provide tools so people can better serve. “...work of service...” (ministry - NKJV)
 - All believers are to “minister” so the minister is help believers minister.

- **A** 4:12b
 - Actively edify
 - Pastors are to build up the body; not tear down the body.
 - Pastors are to be constructing something. (not de-constructing faith but building up faith)
 - Architecturally - fitting people for service (helping to hone them)
 - Athletically - a pastor is a body builder - making them spiritually fit - Heb. 12:1
 - coach who admonishes so the person will be a better athlete - Heb. 10:23-25
- **S** 4:13
 - Scripture "...all attain to the unity of the faith..."
 - There is a common faith that all Christians share - Eph 4:5 Jude 3c
 - The pastor is to foster unity by instilling the Christian's common belief system.
 - Our unity is Christianity (we are a house united in faith) Build biblical unity around The Book
 - The pastor builds on scripture....foundation of Apostles and Prophets
 - The pastor is to be a man of the Book that unifies people around the Book
 - Malachi 2:7 Jer. 3:15
- **T** 4:13b
 - Theology "...the knowledge of the Son of God..."
Christology
 - Christians bear the name of Christ and should know more of Christ
 - "More about Jesus would I know, more of His grace to others show.." (#600)
 - Flavel - Vol. 1 500+ pages all about Jesus
 - I was confronted with how little I knew about my LORD.
 - How much do you know about Jesus? 2 Peter 3:18
 - Maturity = Christlikeness - 4:13c We need to know Him to be like Him
 - Pastors are to preach Christ. We need Christ... need to be like Christ...need to know more of Christ
 - 1 Cor. 1:23-24
- **O** 4:14-15
 - Old The goal is to be old
 - The pastor is to preach so the people will become old souls....mature in faith
 - Not to clamor for the new and young ...we want an old church not a kid church
 - Pastoring is like parenting - the goal to grow up. Evangelist bring them in; pastors grow them up
 - Childlike = doctrinally naïve (children can be manipulated to believe anything) 4:14
 - There are a whole lot of hucksters that take advantage of gullible and naïve newbies in the faith
 - Acts 20:28-30
 - The pastor is to protect by dispensing discernment with sound doctrine - 4:15
 - You need truth to get growth. "Where's the beef?" "We have the meat!" Heb. 5:13-14
- **R** 4:16
 - Remind every believer that they belong
 - Every believer fits somewhere (1 Cor. 12:14-31)
 - The pastor is to fit people for service and see that they are fit and fits somewhere
 - Every member is to be plugged in and be involved - every member matters

P.A.S.T.O.R.

2 Tim. 4:1-4

(John 21:15-17/ Ezekiel 34)