



Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 6 – THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH
LESSONS 119 – MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH – PART 10
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Seven Marks of a Healthy Church

- ▶ What then are the marks of a sound church according to the Bible? We will summarize them into seven points over the next few weeks. These seven things must be present for a church to claim rightly that they are a church that is obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ 1. God is worshipped in spirit and truth – Rom.12:1; Philip.3:3; John 4:5-26
- ▶ 2. Prayer is central – Acts 2:42, 1Thes.5:17
- ▶ 3. Love for Christ and the Brethren is demonstrated – 1 Pet.1:22, Jam.1:22
- ▶ 4. The Word of God is faithfully preached, taught, and heard – Acts 6:4, 13:44; Rom.10:17; 2Tim.4:2
- ▶ 5. The Ordinances of Baptism and Communion are administered – Acts 2:42; Mat.28:19
- ▶ 6. Discipline of the membership is Biblically administered – 1 Cor.5:10-13; Mat.18:15-17
- ▶ 7. Church government and leadership as instituted by the Apostles is established – Acts 14:23, 6:2-3; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

Shepherd the Flock

- ▶ Scriptural Duties and Requirements for Elders – Feed, Lead, Protect
- ▶ Last time we looked at how pastors feed and protect, this week we see how he leads by teaching and setting an example.
- ▶ Shepherd the Flock – 1 Peter 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 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;

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 1. Exercise godliness
- ▶ 1 Tim 4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.
- ▶ Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 1. Exercise godliness (cont'd)
- ▶ a. Labor and suffer reproach if necessary
- ▶ b. Let no one despise your youthful age
- ▶ c. Be an example to the believers
- ▶ d. Give attention to reading, exhortation, and doctrine
- ▶ e. Do not neglect your spiritual gift(s)
- ▶ f. Meditate on God's Word, giving yourself to it completely
- ▶ g. Have evidence of your spiritual progress
- ▶ h. Take heed to yourself and your doctrine
- ▶ i. Continue in truth

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 2. Keep
- ▶ 1 Tim. 5:22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 6:14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,
- ▶ 2 Tim. 1:14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.
- ▶ a. Yourself pure
- ▶ b. The commandments
- ▶ c. The Word that has been committed to you

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 3. Hold Fast and Lay Hold
- ▶ 2 Tim. 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
- ▶ a. The pattern of sound words
- ▶ b. Eternal life

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 4. Pursue
- ▶ 1 Tim. 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- ▶ 2 Tim. 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
- ▶ a. Righteousness
- ▶ b. Godliness
- ▶ c. Faith
- ▶ d. Love
- ▶ e. Patience
- ▶ f. Gentleness
- ▶ g. Peace

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 5. Be
- ▶ 2 Tim. 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- ▶ 2 Tim. 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient
- ▶ 2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- ▶ 2 Tim. 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- ▶ a. Strong in grace
- ▶ b. Gentle
- ▶ c. Able to teach
- ▶ d. Always ready
- ▶ e. Watchful in all things

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 6. Do not
- ▶ 2 Tim. 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,
- ▶ 2 Tim. 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
- ▶ a. Be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord
- ▶ b. Quarrel

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 7. Prove yourself a good worker
- ▶ 1 Tim. 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare
- ▶ 1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—
- ▶ 2 Tim. 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 7. Prove yourself a good worker (cont'd)
- ▶ 2 Tim. 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- ▶ a. Wage a good warfare
- ▶ b. Fight a good fight
- ▶ c. Guard what is committed to your trust
- ▶ d. Endure hardship and affliction
- ▶ e. Be diligent
- ▶ f. Rightly handle the Word of God

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 8. In the Church
- ▶ James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
- ▶ 1 Tim. 5:3 Honor widows who are really widows.
- ▶ 2 Tim. 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

Shepherd the Flock – Lead the Sheep

- ▶ 8. In the Church (cont'd)
- ▶ Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—
- ▶ Acts 15:22 Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.
- ▶ a. Pray for all men, especially the sick
- ▶ b. Ordain and appoint other leaders (elders, teachers)
- ▶ c. Honor widows
- ▶ d. Share in the sufferings of the gospel
- ▶ e. Set in order things that are lacking
- ▶ f. Set church policy

Upcoming Lessons

- ▶ Part 11 - Scriptural Responsibility of the Congregation to their Pastors
- ▶ Part 12 - Summary of the Purposes of a Healthy Church