

A Pastor...!! Is that REALLY a Job??

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Definitions

‘pastor’ lit. means ‘shepherd’ - the one who feeds those in the pasture; a person having spiritual care of people. Jesus Christ is called the "Good Shepherd" or "Good Pastor."

‘clergy’ [klur-jee] - the group of ordained persons in a religion, as distinguished from the laity (lit. the ‘people’ ie. Non-ordained)

‘priest’- one who stands between God and man, offering sacrifices on behalf of the people. Used as leader’s title by some Christians (esp. Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican). Evangelicals do not usually use this title for their spiritual leaders because of the finished work of Jesus our high priest.

‘parish’- an ecclesiastical district having its own church and member of the clergy

‘Rector’- a member of the clergy in charge of a parish.

‘Vicar’- a person appointed to do the work of another. In the Anglican tradition, a Vicar serves on behalf of the Rector of the Parish, like an Associate.

‘Bishop’ – an overseer, one who has the spiritual oversight of a group of churches, leader of a Diocese in the Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox tradition.

What does a Pastor Do?

“Most pastors are six days invisible, and one day incomprehensible.” Source Unknown

“Well, I sleep in most days, then get up in time to watch Oprah...On Saturday’s I go on-line and try to find a sermon...”
Scott Longyear

<http://reson8.org/stuff/exchange/week-in-the-life-of-a-pastor/>

“He teaches us, loves us as we love Him. He visits the Sick and the Hospitals. Helps us in troubled times. He is our Shepherd.”
Chicago Bob

“Disturbers are to be rebuked, the low-spirited to be encouraged, the infirm to be supported, objectors confuted, the treacherous guarded against, the unskilled taught, the lazy aroused, the contentious restrained, the haughty repressed, litigants pacified, the poor relieved, the oppressed liberated, the good approved, the evil borne with, and all are to be loved.” St. Augustine, 400 AD

“Make your sole task in life to teach the whole Word of God to your flock. The whole Word: this is pastoral work.”
William Still

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Apostle Paul, Ephesians 4.11-13

A to Z duties of Pastor

ambassador, advocate, administrator,
baptizer, building usage consultant,
confidante, confronter, community builder,
discussion leader,
encourager, emotional baggage handler,
funeral companion,
grace giver, grounds inspector,
historian,
interpreter,
justice seeker,
knowledge dispenser,
latent gift discoverer,
mediator, missionary,
nurturer,
organizer, opportunity spotter,
public speaker, problem solver,
questioner, quarterback,
reviewer, Robert's Ruler,
spokesperson, spiritual director,
teacher, trainer,
unifier, utility player,
volunteer coordinator, vision caster,
wedding ceremony presider,
X-traordinary ingenuity with limited resources (like figuring out a way to use the letter X),
youth advocate, yule celebrator,
zeal stoker, zoo keeper (okay, so it just seems that way).

Recognizing a Pastor

Call from God – a pastor is a job you are chosen for, more than a job you choose. This ‘call’ is more than just a feeling, although it does include that. It is a strong sense that you are to serve God in a life-long ministry of caring for others through instruction and encouragement of Scripture. Your desire is to equip and instruct others to faithfully and effectively do the work of ministry.

Clear Demonstration of Gifts – a true ‘call’ is evident to others, especially those who know you well, are mature in faith, and understand the work of ministry. Spiritual gifts are present (see Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4) and used with increasing effectiveness in humble dependence on God.

Clarification by Studies, Experience, Maturity – A call is seasoned through walking with God. Gifts are strengthened through experience. Pastoral ministry ends at death, there is no retirement, but there are changes in assignments. Pastors need to have a clear knowledge of Scripture and be able to communicate its message. Higher education, with a humble spirit and for the glory of God, can enhance your ministry effectiveness and opportunities. In this world, in general, higher degrees allow you to move higher in circles of influence and opportunity. But remember God does not look on just the outside, He sees the heart.

Confirmation by a church / ministry – True calling must be ratified by the church and other leaders. Ordination to ministry is done by affirmation of experienced pastors. If you have no ‘call’ from people to serve them, you may not have a ‘call’ from God. Pastors most often serve in local churches, but can also do pastoral ministry as teachers, professors, chaplains, missionaries, worship leaders, counselors, ‘tent-making’ business people, ministry administrators, evangelists, church planters, church technical support, and using the arts for Kingdom advance. *****