



# SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP

HEBREWS 13:7,17

# Shepherds and Sheep

- We are discussing “shepherds and sheep” in three sermons, and thus three parts.
- In the first part we considered the responsibilities of shepherds.
- In the second part we discovered the responsibilities of sheep.
- In the third part we will determine the application of these responsibilities.

# Shepherds and Sheep

- Big idea concerning shepherding:  
*Shepherding is chiefly concerned with the spiritual care of the flock entrusted to him (Acts 20:28).*
- “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care [literally, “to shepherd”] for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood”

# Shepherds and Sheep

## 1. The primary tasks of shepherds

### A. Shepherds lead (v. 7, 17)

- “Remember your *leaders*” (v. 7)
- “Obey your *leaders . . .*” (v. 17)

### B. Shepherds feed (v. 7)

- “those who spoke to you the word of God”

### C. Shepherds guard (v. 17)

- “for they are *keeping watch* over your souls”

# Shepherds and Sheep

- Big idea concerning being a sheep: *Being sheep is primarily means hearing and responding to the voice of our Chief Shepherd and humbly following the under-shepherds God has placed in our lives (John 10:4-5; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3).*
- “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, *in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care [literally, “to shepherd”]* for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood”

# Shepherds and Sheep

## 2. The pleasant responses of sheep

- It is possible that v. 7 has shepherds who have already died in view while v. 17 has shepherds who are still ministering among these believers.
- We find three exhortations in each verse.
- The words are all imperatives, or commands, or they carry the same force as a command.
- The words are also in the present tense revealing that these virtues should characterize us all the time.

# Shepherds and Sheep

## A. Remember them (v. 7)

- This word is also found in Hebrews 11:15, 22. It means to remember with fondness.

## B. Consider them (v. 7)

- “To look up a subject, to investigate, to observe accurately” (Robertson, *Word Pictures*, 5:446).

## C. Imitate them (v. 7)

- We get our word “mimic” from this Greek word. It means “to use as a model” (BDAG, 651).

# Shepherds and Sheep

## D. Obey them (v. 17)

- The word mean to obey a person who has influence (cf. Galatians 3:1; 5:7; James 3:3).

## E. Submit to them (v. 17)

- This is the only place this verb is found in the NT. It has the idea of “withdrawing, give way to’, then by fig. extension to yield to someone’s authority” (BDAG, 1030). Deference is the focus of this command.

## F. Let them (v. 17)

- To resist your pastor for the care of your soul is to resist the health of your soul.

# Shepherds and Sheep

## **3. The contemporary application of the relationship between shepherds and sheep**

- A. Shepherds and Sheep should: relate authentically.
- B. Shepherds should: shepherd personally.
- C. Shepherds should: shepherd discerningly.
- D. Sheep should: follow humbly.
- E. Sheep should: feed voraciously.

# Shepherds and Sheep

- Shepherds and Sheep should: *resolve conflict humbly and introspectively; reconciliation; check your relationship with the Chief Shepherd*
- Shepherds and Sheep should: *be understanding of our shortcomings.*
- Shepherds and Sheep: *should enjoy fellowship together.*

# Shepherds and Sheep

- Shepherds and Sheep should: *communicate; pray for each other.*
- Sheep should: *defer to their shepherd(s) on secondary matters.*
- Sheep should: *provide opportunities and resources to feed the sheep.*
- Sheep should: *listen attentively and pray or their shepherds.*

# Shepherds and Sheep

- Sheep should: *bring their shepherd joy.*
- Shepherds should: *find joy in the right aspects of ministry.*
- Shepherds should: *be aware of doctrinal winds that are blowing.*
- Shepherds should: **GET THE WOLF!**
- Sheep should: *take ownership of ministry; focus on the centrality of the ministry of the word.*

# Shepherds and Sheep

- Sheep should: *examine the Scriptures to test all things.*
- Shepherds should: *set before the congregation past exemplary leaders.*
- Sheep should: *be aware of how their actions affect other sheep and shepherds*
- Sheep should: *take action on instructions from God's word!*
- Sheep should: *love their leaders.*