

WRITE IT DOWN!

A People Submitted

What in the World is the Church?

Hebrews 13:7-9, 17-25

October 28, 2007

LISTEN UP!

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I. The Biblical REALITY of Gospel Shepherds in the Church

- A. We are sheep! (13:20)
- B. Jesus is the Great Shepherd who laid down His life. (13:20)
- C. We are to shepherd one another. (Heb. 10:25)
- D. The local church is to be led by Under-Shepherds. (13:7, 17)
 - Not one, but a plurality (Acts 14:23, 20:17)
 - Emerging from within (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5,)
 - Meeting Biblical qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)
 - Exercising authority, but under authority (13:17, 20)

II. The Biblical ROLE of Gospel Shepherds in the Church

- 1. They are to strengthen hearts with grace. (13:9)
- 2. They are to speak the Word of God to the people of God. (13:7)
- 3. They are to lead the people of God in faith and conduct. (13:7)
- 4. They are to direct the people of God in the work of God. (13:17)
- 5. They are to keep watch over the souls of the people. (13:17)

III. The Biblical RESPONSE to Gospel Shepherds in the Church

- 1. _____ their _____. (13:9)
- 2. Study their lives and _____ their _____. (13:7)
- 3. _____ to their _____. (13:17)
- 4. _____ their _____. (13:17)
- 5. _____. (13:17)
- 6. _____ for them like crazy! (13:18)

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Hebrews 13:7-9, 17-21 again. Who are the leaders mentioned in 7-9? Who are the leaders in view in v. 17? Who are the leaders in view in v. 18?
2. What is Jesus called in Hebrews 10:20 and why is he suddenly called this when He hasn't been before in Hebrews? What are we called in verse 20?
3. What is "mutual shepherding" and what does Hebrews 10:24-25 have to do with it?
4. Look carefully at the flow of thought from verse 7 to verse 9. (It's a bit hard to follow!) What are the readers told to remember? What are they told to avoid? What does it mean to have our hearts "strengthened by grace?" Why did we call church leaders Gospel Shepherds in this message?
5. Look at Acts 20:17-38. Who is gathered here in v. 17? Is there one or more than one? Why is that important? What does Paul say about them in v. 28? Who made them what they are? What is their task?
6. In Hebrews 13 describe the ROLE of Gospel Shepherds and the proper RESPONSE to Gospel Shepherds.

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What did you like about this text and message? What moved you? What challenged you? What didn't you understand?
2. Why are we so opposed to authority of any kind in our day? How did we get this way? How does the Gospel and the Christian Worldview challenge culture at this point and call us to be A People Submitted?
3. Why is an authority structure unavoidable and necessary in any organization and the church? What happens when there is no leadership?
4. Define and describe OWN-SHEPHERDING and OVER-SHEPHERDING. What are some political examples and some religious examples of over-shepherding? How is Gospel Shepherding different than either of these?
5. Growth Groups are intended to be places for "mutual shepherding." Is yours? Describe how it is and how it might be.
6. Do you feel like you know the leadership of Grace? What might be done to make them more accessible, available and known? Would you feel comfortable calling a pastor or elder and requesting an appointment? If not, why not? Before this message, would you personally have described yourself as "coming under" the authority of the leadership of Grace? How about now? How might a more formal "covenant membership" help in the challenge of Gospel Shepherding in the 21st Century?