

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XII – Faithful Shepherds

Lesson 1. The Call for Faithful Shepherds

- I. BBI = Bringing others along on my theological and discipleship journey.
 - A. Recognizing and removing faulty presuppositions and bad doctrine.
 - B. Also a process of personal growth as a disciple of Christ.
 - C. Diagnosing and learning from my mistakes
 - 1. Fail: Attempting to change established “churches” regarding theology
 - 2. Fail: Attempting to plant new “churches” with better theology
 - a. Two major errors in my presuppositions:
 - 1. Error: That good theology was the glue to keep an assembly whole and on the right path.
 - a. The glue is humility, love for one another that transcends any offense, and the absolute commitment to obey God’s commands.
 - 2. Error: That a “church” (assembly) could be established by anyone if they had been “ordained.”
 - a. A Christian “assembly” according to the Bible consisted of all baptized believers in any city or community. They were in fellowship together around the Apostles’ Doctrine, and met in whatever ways they could, including small groups, with Jesus Himself as the “Head.”
 - b. None of us can start a “church” (assembly) where there are already Christians. We are already part of the only Christian “church” (assembly) within that community via our baptism.
 - c. The word “ekklesia” (church/assembly) was originally used because the early gatherings were relatively small.
 - d. The Jerusalem assembly in Acts:
 - 1. Originally consisted of 3120 believers (Acts 2:41).
 - 2. They did not all gather weekly in the same place, but from “from house to house” (v. 46) in small groups, and at the Temple during the feasts or special occasions (Acts 21:17-22).

D. It is a mistake to isolate ourselves from other Christians or have an elitist mentality because of our theology. That disturbs the UNITY of the assembly of Christ in that community.

1. We are commanded to strive towards the unity of the body in our community (Eph. 4:1-6)
2. We should be salt and light to the Christian community around us.
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:15 *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”*
 - b. Seek fellowship with all Christians around our common devotion to God and His only-begotten Son.
 - c. Then share your hope when opportunities arise. You will be shunned by some. But shunning them is sin.

II. The state of Christianity in general in the last days

- A. 2 Tim 3:1-9 leading up to the last days
- B. Matt. 24:3-14 during the “birth pains”
- C. No different than the state of Judaism in the OT (unfaithful shepherds)
- D. Or in Jesus’ day (perverse generation; hypocrites – Matt. 23)

III. The failure of Christian pastor-shepherds does not have to result in the failure of your own family and extended family.

- A. Husbands/fathers are ultimately responsible for their own family (the buck stops ...).
- B. Men, you are the “shepherd” of your wife and children. You alone must guide them through the dark days ahead if you wish to arrive safely at the harbor.
- C. You cannot abdicate that responsibility to the pastor of some carnal or ignorant “church-fragment” to disciple your wife and children
- D. You cannot be a “shepherd” to your “little flock” unless you are first a true “disciple” yourself.
 1. You cannot teach what you have not yet mastered and practice
 2. Teaching theology is easy because it does not require that you live your faith before others. Any hypocrite can do it.
 3. Talking theology without living consistently according to the Word is a recipe for disaster. Those who do will be shipwrecked in the end times.
- E. Module 12 will help equip you to be a true disciple of Christ & teach by example, rather than only talking theology.
 1. Let God’s Word shepherd you, be diligent about it and live it consistently.
 2. Shepherd your wife and children by teaching and consistently modeling the teachings of Scripture (Deut. 6:4-9).

F. Having the PRESENCE of God and His only-begotten Son in your little “fellowship” is the ONLY way to successfully navigate the last days.

1. That requires humble obedience.

G. This presence was intended for the whole assembly, but can also be ...

1. where two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name (Matt. 18:20)

2. even with a single person (John 14:23; Rev. 3:20)