

“The Heart of a Shepherd”
1 Corinthians 4:14-21

I. The Shepherd does what he does out of love (vs. 14-15).

- A. A shepherd is motivated to bring about good.
- B. He cares for the people God has entrusted to him as a father cares for his children.

(Galatians 4:19-20; Colossians 1:28-29)

II. The Shepherd sets an example by the way he follows Christ (vs. 16-17).

- A. He must be one who lives a life that imitates Christ.
- B. He must teach others how to follow Christ.
- C. He must teach others how to follow Christ without partiality.

(Acts 14:21-22)

III. A Shepherd corrects according to the truth in God’s Word (vs. 18-21).

- A. He understands that spiritual leadership is necessary.
- B. He realizes that true faith consists of more than mere words.
- C. He recognizes that different situations call for different responses.

(Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:1-2, 5)

Scripture References and Notes

Ezekiel 34:2-6

²“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?’ ³You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat *sheep* without feeding the

flock. ⁴ Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them. ⁵ They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered. ⁶ My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek *for them*.”””

John 10:11-14 (KJV)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ¹² But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. ¹³ The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

admonish

- νουθετέω (noutheteó)
- to admonish, exhort
- I admonish, warn, counsel, exhort.
- *nouthetéō* (from *noús*, "mind" and *títhēmi*, "to place") – properly, to place the mind, i.e. *reasoning* with someone by *warning (admonishing)* them.
- *nouthetéō* ("admonish through instruction") especially *appeals to the mind*, supplying *doctrinal and spiritual substance (content)*. This "exerts positive pressure" *on someone's logic (reasoning)*, i.e. urging them to choose (turn to) God's best.
- [This root (*nouth-*) does *not* strictly mean "chastise," though this can be *involved* – i.e. with needed admonishing, correcting, exhortation, etc.]

Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Galatians 4:19-20

¹⁹ My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you— ²⁰ but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Acts 14:21-22

²¹ After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Matthew 18:15-17

¹⁵ "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

2 Timothy 3:1-2, 5

¹ But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy...

⁵ ...holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

¹⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.