A Pastor’s Guidebook for Effective Pastoral Calling

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Abstract
There are many phases of the pastoral ministry, each one having a unique and necessary purpose. A high emphasis has always been placed on the pastor as a preacher. Serving as administrator has also been encouraged. Today, the phase of the pastor as counselor has been reaching the forefront. It is true that these are all vital parts of the pastoral ministry, but there is yet another phase that must not be neglected. This is pastoral calling. Without effectively practicing this phase, the pastor’s ministry is lacking and incomplete.

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Every pastor must be, at heart, a shepherd. Without a shepherd's heart, he's probably not an effective pastor. A pastor who watches over God's flock without a shepherd's heart, serving with wrong or insincere motives, is as Jesus said, merely a hired hand (John 12:12). A hired hand takes on the same task as a true shepherd, but for vastly different reasons. He is one of those gifted individuals who could be called a pastor to pastors. As executive director of the Center for Christian Leadership and professor of pastoral ministries at Dallas Seminary he has trained hundreds of young pastors who have moved into full-time vocational ministry. Effective Pastoring is the result of Bill Lawrence's passionate pursuit of training leaders to serve in the body of Christ. FROM THE FORWARD: The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor is written for all leaders of small churches. This guidebook is a gateway into fully understanding the trials and joys of working together to lead your small church to fulfill your calling in Jesus Christ. The insights you will discover on these pages will help you make the best decisions as you seek to call a part-time pastor to your church. This book is also for ministers considering a call to a small church. Here you will be reminded of what you already know—that your ministry matters—and that small churches matter in the kingdom of God. This book will resonate with what is in your heart and mind about Jesus Christ. The pastor’s calling is not to do whatever is necessary to please everyone in his church. God’s calling for the pastor is different and clearly outlined in God’s Word. The Apostle Peter exhorts elders/pastors (same office) to one undeniable task: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.