

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Five Faces of Jesus: Pastors

Sunday August 28th, 2016



Today is the 3rd in a series of six of the “Five Faces of Jesus”. The 5 faces of Jesus are the 5 ways that we see Jesus expressing his ministry while here on earth. These are also the 5 ways that Jesus continues his ministry here on earth through his followers you and me. Each of us is particularly gifted in at least one of these ways of doing ministry in order to continue Jesus’ ministry here on earth.

The purpose for each having different gifts is that we truly can’t be all things to all people and we need all of the gifts to be a healthy church, to be able to build up the body of Christ. Today I am talking about the gift of being a “pastor”.

Now the word “pastor” in the New Testament literally means “shepherd”. (**Pastor = Shepherd**) We see the face of Jesus as shepherd when he tells us in John 10:11 **“I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.”** In 1 Peter 5:4 it says, **“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will not fade away.”**

We follow Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We are his sheep. In that many are gifted as pastors and in that we are all called to care; from the front we look like sheep



and from the back we all look like shepherds.



There is not a one of us that doesn't have another person observing us and our lifestyle, seeing us as shepherds. There is not a one of us that is not called and gifted in some way to care. Shepherds, pastors care!!

Now a pastor is one who shepherds the people of God. I feel I must emphasize that for our discussion today "pastor" refers to lay people as well as ordained clergy who have that gifting. The pastor cares for others with a kind and tender heart. Pastors see need and try to meet it with loving care. They are eager to help.

Mature pastors bring not only comfort, but they have the strength to confront when necessary. Remember in Psalm 23 it says **"Your rod and your staff they comfort me."** The staff was for rescuing strayed sheep. It was a shepherd's crook. The rod was for disciplining the sheep and protection from wolves, lions and bears.



A club with nails driven through the head is how some describe a shepherd's rod. It was a fearsome defensive weapon.

Pastors long to see Christians grow to their full potential. They can easily empathize with others, but mature pastors see beyond the present hurt and care to the source of the hurt, and also to the future with its freedom from bondage.

Now being a pastor is the most common gifting among the 5 Fold Ministries. The next largest number of people you find within a Christian Church is teachers. We spoke of teachers last week and a copy of that sermon is on our website. But pastors are number one and you can see why. We need the glue that caring individuals have for one another to hold the church together. Apostles, evangelists and prophets pull the

church into new territory for the Kingdom of God. It is the pastors and teachers that hold that ground through their care, empathy and help.

Pastors begin their ministry early in life and it is up to the families and the church to help them grow.

A story is told about “two children who ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother’s Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen.

But after a long, long wait followed by silence she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found both children sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs.

“It’s a surprise for Mother’s Day,” one explained with a big grin, “we decided to cook our own breakfast today!!” Mickey’s funnies

Mature pastors enjoy:

Seeing others grow (especially little ones in the best way to care.)

One on one conversation

Showing hospitality (inviting people to a relationship that heals)

And can get burdened by others problems. (they will go home exhausted after counseling people.)

Pastors can indeed become overburdened by others problems and need to practice setting boundaries and turning things over to God in prayer, but here is what the heart of pastor is like: **rejoicing with those who rejoice and mourning with those who mourn.**

A story is told by author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia about a contest he had been asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a 4 year old boy whose next door neighbor was an elderly man who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old man’s yard, climbed up onto his lap and just sat there. When his mother asked

him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."



That's the heart of a pastor and it begins to develop early and needs the guiding hand of loving parents and guardians to see that gift of God grow for at times the little ones don't get it quite right in how to care and protect.

Again a little boy tried to come to the aid of his father, who had been pulled over for speeding. When his dad rolled down his window and the little boy heard the motorcycle cop tell his dad he had been speeding.

He piped up in indignation and said,

"Yeah? Well, if we were speeding, so were you!!"

Words that describe a pastor are:

Caring
Sensitive
Loving
Kind
Confronting &
Supporting

Mature pastors indeed **"speak the truth in love."** As verse 16 of Ephesians 4 says. Immature pastors won't speak a hard truth for fear of offending the other.

I remember my growth as a pastor. In my early years when an abused woman came to speak to me I merely referred her to a shelter. But I grew in my understanding of abusive relationships.

So years later when another abused woman came to talk to me I spoke to her about what I learned about abuse. She was in her 4th

abusive relationship. I confronted her, gently of course, to consider what was the same in all those relationships besides the abuse? I led her to discover she was the common denominator and that was something to work on. The light came on in her eyes and she went into intensive counseling that set her free from seeking those who would abuse her.

'Immature pastors are like all pastors and they love nothing more than being with people in the midst of their brokenness, pain, and suffering. However, they have a really difficult time in moving people from brokenness to seeking healing, transformation and redemption. They will certainly sit and cry with you, but they don't know how or have the courage to help a person move on. Immature pastors don't have the confidence to push or challenge people to move on.' Mike Breen

One of the beauties of the Stephen Ministry training is that it does teach you how to challenge and encourage people to move on. If you want to up your ability to pastor people I highly encourage you to become a trained Stephen minister.

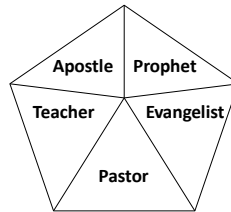
Now everyday pastors, or pre-Christian pastors, or Christian pastors who work out their gifting in everyday life are often:

Counselors
Parents
Social workers
Nurses
Life coaches etc.

They usually are involved in what are called the "Helping" professions.

Now how do the 5 fold ministries work together so far? We have three more to go and next week it will be "evangelists".

The 5 fold ministries are:

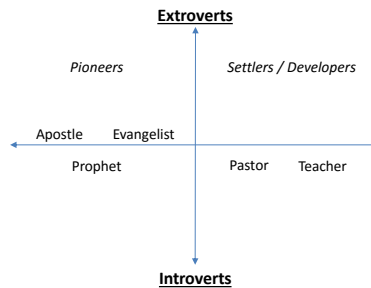


Last week I asked for pictures of Jesus that fit one of the five faces of Jesus. I got one that I would call “Joyful” Jesus!



Doesn't fit any one category but I see Jesus as joyful in all his ministry.

Now on page 5 in your bulletin and up on the screen there is a diagram I want you to refer to.



Notice the up and down axis. On the top it says “Extroverts” and on the bottom “Introverts”. To the left is “pioneers” and to the right “settlers/developers.”

Apostles, Evangelists and Prophets are “Pioneers”. Like pioneers they are gifted for and seek to win or conquer new territory for the Kingdom of God. They are the ones who generally start new churches, new ministries, new social holiness movements. The Apostles in particular are always moving toward something new for the Kingdom of God.

Apostles and Evangelists are generally extroverts. Prophets generally introverts. But all three are gifted and called to extend the Kingdom of God in new ways. Their search and push for the new often times exhausts the pastors and the teachers who are trying to

consolidate and organize what the Apostles, Evangelists and Prophets have won, or started.

Pastors and teachers hold together the ground, the people and programs that the others have started. Pastors and teachers can be introverts or extroverts. It is the prophets who are generally introverts.

If not for the Apostles, Evangelists and Prophets the church would never move forward and grow. If not for the Pastors and Teachers what was begun would never survive. All are important in the Body of Christ.

It is the difference between the ministries of John Wesley and George Whitefield. Both were incredible evangelists. Both brought 10s of 1000s in not 100s of 1000s to Jesus Christ. John Wesley, though, had a heavy dose of gifting in the areas of teacher and pastor. He created small groups, covenant groups (like huddle groups) that gathered in those who were converted and in those groups the new Christians were pastored & taught, and so they grew into powerful disciples of Jesus Christ. Today there are around 80 million believers because of John Wesley's gifting as pastor and teacher.

George Whitefield was a gifted evangelistic preacher, but he had no one working with him to consolidate and hold the people, who he converted, the new ground. So upon his death nothing survived him.

The Apostles, Evangelists and Prophets are always introducing the Church to the new and shouting at the Pastors and Teachers, "Come along." The Pastors and Teachers are desperately trying to gather up the new sheep and shouting at the Apostles, Evangelists and Prophets, "When is enough, enough?"

The answer is never and the successful churches are those in which all people's gifts are recognized, celebrated and encouraged and the entire body is **"built up to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."** No single person can build up a church!

We need each other and to be successful as a church we need to understand each other and treat each other as a pastor would with caring, sensitivity, love and support.

I want to close with a true story that shows how the heart of a Pastor can work in the smallest of churches that of a husband and wife that God has brought together.

“In his book MORTAL LESSONS (Touchstone Books, 1987) Dr. Richard Selzer describes a scene in a hospital room after he had performed surgery on a young woman’s face: He wrote,

“I stood by the bed where the young woman lay....her face, postoperative....her mouth twisted in palsy.....clownish. A tiny twig of facial nerve had been severed. She will be that way from now on. I had followed with religious fervor the curve of her flesh, I promise you that. Nevertheless, to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had to cut this little nerve. Her young husband was in the room. He stood on the opposite side of the bed, and together they seemed to be in a world all their own in evening lamplight... Isolated from me....private.

Who are they? I asked myself... he and this wry mouth I had made, who gazed at and touched each other so generously. The young woman spoke. “Will my mouth always be like this?” she asked. “Yes” I said, “It will. It’s because the nerve was cut.”

She nods and is silent. But the young man smiles. “I like it. It is kind of cute.”

All at once I knew who he was. I understood, and I lowered my gaze.

One is not bold in an encounter with the divine.

Unmindful, he bent to kiss her crooked mouth, and I am so close I can see how he twisted his own lips to accommodate hers.....to show her....that their kiss still worked.

My friends, pastors in our midst, may you also be there in times of deep pain and suffering to pastor others.

May others through you see that God's divine kiss of love and care still works. Still works on this earth.



May others see the divine shining through you as you care.

In Jesus' name. Amen