

“Shepherding the Family” Part Two

Colossians 1:28-29

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Introduction:

Our Mission: Linking together to make a difference for Christ in our world.

Our Purpose: To glorify God in carrying out the Great Commission and to build up believers in the Christian faith.

Why do we exist as a church? We exist to equip men, women and children to be mature, healthy, reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ who are expanding their influence globally.

Jesus Christ builds His church — through us!

- Fathers are to shepherd disciples in their families.
- Elders are to shepherd disciples in their local church.
- Disciples are to shepherd fellow disciples around the world.

All of us are to shepherd all of us!

Colossians 1:28-29 “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

Review of Part One:

I. THE SIMPLE METHOD

- Step #1 We Proclaim Christ
- Step #2 We Admonish People
- Step #3 We Teach People

Now in Part Two:

II. THE SUPREME GOAL

“A leader is one who climbs the tallest tree, survey’s the entire situation and yells, ‘Wrong jungle!’” (John Maxwell)
“I climbed the ladder of success only to find out it was leaning against the wrong building.”

Colossians 1:28 "...so that we may present every man complete in Christ."

“present” = pictures the infant Jesus in Luke 2:22 being "presented" in the Temple. Also pictures believers in Romans 6:19; 12:1 "presenting" their bodies as living sacrifices to God.

Our Ultimate Ministry Goal

Presenting everyone we disciple as a special offering to God

Colossians 1:28 “complete” = Greek: teleion = mature, perfected, fully grown

The Seven Marks of a Healthy Christian

- Closer through fellowship • Stronger through doctrine • More passionate through worship • Broader through service • Larger through evangelism • Deeper through discipleship • More effective through prayer

When Am I Done Shepherding?

"...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 fulness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13)

III. THE SOURCE OF POWER

Colossians 1:29 "For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

The Four Power Words of Shepherding

(Based on Colossians 1:29)

1. Shepherding takes “exhausting labor” (Greek: kopiao)
2. Shepherding takes “agonizing work” (Greek: agonizomai)
3. Shepherding takes “draining effort” (Greek: energeian)
4. Shepherding takes “dynamite power” (Greek: dunamos)

Hebrews 12:1-2 “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”

The Special Needs for God’s Shepherding Power

1. Ministry requires God’s power when we get criticized for our efforts.

Heb. 12:3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

2. Ministry requires God’s power when we get tired.

Gal. 6:9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

3. Ministry requires God’s power when we don’t get enough help.

1 Cor. 15:10 "I labored even more than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God with me..."

2 Tim. 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith..."

Every member a minister

"Greet Trephine and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord." (Rom 16:12)

Our Motivation for Shepherding

1. We are to work hard because of who it is we truly serve.

1 Tim. 4:10 "For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men..."

2. We are to work hard because of the rewards of seeing the fruit of our labors.

2 Tim. 2:6 "The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops."

Eph. 3:20-21 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

Our Family Shepherding Goals

Goal #1 To see every family member serving as an effective disciple and minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Goal #2 To see every family member using his/her talents to proclaim Christ to a needy world.

Goal #3 To see every family member fully mature in Christ.

Goal #4 To see every family member engaged in agonizing but joy-filled labor for Christ.