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Understanding the Five-Fold Ministry: God's System for the Equipping, Edification, Empowerment, and Expansion of The Body of Christ.

9. The Pastor: The Cultivator

Chapter 6 defines the Office of Pastor as a shepherd who tends God's people under Jesus, the Chief Shepherd. It lays out what a true pastor does, the character qualifications, and what disqualifies someone from the office.

Key takeaways

- A gift does not equal readiness for office; don't chase position out of hunger for power. A pastor must actually be a shepherd who loves the sheep.
- The pastor has three jobs: feed the sheep (teach so they grow in wisdom and aren't tossed about), clean the sheep (discipleship, rebuke, correction), and protect the sheep (be present as watchman, intercede, give account for them).
- Balance is required: don't only correct and 'whip' the sheep; also encourage, empower, and let them rejoice.
- Qualifications (Titus 1): blameless, a steward of God, not self-willed or given to wine/money, hospitable, sober, just, holy, holding to sound doctrine.

- Disqualification comes from losing blamelessness, being undisciplined (wine, sex, money), or teaching unsound doctrine that excuses sin as grace — 'you can't have conversion without conviction.'

Passages worth keeping

“True Shepherds will smell like the sheep because they are among the sheep. You can't pastor people if you don't like people.”

Sums up the chapter's picture of a present, hands-on shepherd rather than an absent officeholder.

How it connects

The whole chapter reads Jesus as the Chief Shepherd and the pastor as the 'under shepherd,' echoing John 10 — the office is accountable to Him, not a platform for self.

Scripture referenced

- **Jeremiah 3:15** -- God gives pastors who feed with knowledge and understanding — the chapter's theme verse
- **2 Timothy 4:1-3** -- cited for the pastor's duty to correct, rebuke, and disciple
- **Acts 20:28 / Hebrews 13:17** -- the pastor protects the flock and gives account for the people
- **Titus 1:4-9** -- the qualifications for the office