

Area Ministry, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. One's approach to self-development is not to look back at all of his needs but to look to current needs.
- B. There is no mysterious person who has it all together.
- C. If you relax, you will grow a lot better.
- D. We need to learn to make peace with the reality about the ministry. We have to be realistic about what we can do.

II. Shepherding the flock and selection.

A. If we are leaders over a group in the body then we have a responsibility to shepherd them. (Acts 20:17-38, I Peter 5, Psalm 43, 78:70-72, John 10:1-20, Acts 20, I Peter 5:1-4)

B. Oversight.

1. This carries the idea of looking over someone and observing him or her.
2. It is positive evaluation.
3. One needs to be courageous enough to make decisions for the whole flock.
4. The shepherd also needs to protect the flock.

C. Teaching and counseling. People need to be moved gently.

D. Care and comfort. (Psalm 23)

1. When a person is hurting, we need to be there.
2. One must develop an objectivity to discern real needs.

III. Selection.

A. This is a leadership term, not a term for the general body.

B. What is important here is the motivation--selection is for greater service. (Exodus 18:11-27 Acts 6:1, Acts 16)

C. Selection is for multiplying ministry capacity. The reality is that not every person will be a multiplier even if that is what we seek. (II Timothy 2:2)

D. Selection is always to happen out of a group of disciples.

E. One is to select spiritual people. One cannot give a person a heart for God.

F. Faithful people should be selected.

G. One should select able people. (II Timothy 2)

H. Wise people should be selected.

IV. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. What are the chief characteristics of a "shepherding" ministry?

2. Why is the term selection controversial but necessary for leadership?

3. What does it mean to be objective about real needs? Explain.
