

Title: A Culture of honour (The Man who changed the whole world V)
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Date: 24 November 2013
Time: 09:00



Luke 4:18&19

18**“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me**, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; **He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.

Jesus the good Shepherd

Matthew 9:36 (NKJV)

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were like weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”

Psalms 23 1-3a

The Lord is my **shepherd**; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He **restores my soul**.

John 10:11

“I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd **gives His life** for the sheep”.

A pastor has a shepherd's heart. He cares about the sheep and he wants to keep the flock together. He wants to make sure that they don't go astray.

The gift of the pastor releases the following over a church: They look you in the eye and make you feel like the most important person at that moment. They believe in you, they see potential in you. You feel loved and accepted by them. Confidentiality is really important to them, so you feel safe to tell them all your stories. A pastor creates a safe place for everyone in the church and is the glue that keeps the people together. The pastoral gift brings a unity in the church where people trust one another and feel safe to be themselves.

The pastoral gift creates a safe environment for the prophet, teacher, evangelist and apostle to flourish. All of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit can operate (Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, gift of faith, gift of physical healing, miracles, prophesy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues) which are all beyond our natural understanding, but everyone will feel safe, because everything is done in love and for the benefit of the people. **The pastoral gift facilitates 1 Cor 13**, the chapter on love, where the Apostle Paul says that without love we are nothing, even if we speak in tongues, or prophesy or have faith that can move mountains...

Strengths of the pastoral gift:

1. They raise up other pastors to look after the sheep.
2. They release a culture of honour among the people in the church.
3. They honestly care for people in need and facilitate kindness that can change a life forever.
4. They facilitate the gift of hospitality.
5. They see potential and good in people that no-one else can see.

Dangers of the pastoral gift in isolation:

1. People will be **inwardly focused** and can form cliques in the church – they will not have a heart for the lost and the broken without the gift of the evangelist
2. The people **resist change** and are afraid of new things – they are negative about the gift of the prophet and the apostle, because they pursue supernatural things like prophesy or praying for people for physical healing.

3. They **stagnate and don't grow anymore**. The pastor can be over protective over the sheep and not pursue a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, because that will freak the sheep out and he doesn't want that.
4. The people in the church **could manipulate the pastor**, because he loves people and wants to please everyone
5. The pastor could draw **people to himself** instead of pointing them to Jesus. People have to be pointed to Jesus all the time. We can't hear from God on behalf of them. We can't be there for them all the time.