

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Study.....9:00 A.M.
 Worship.....10:00 A.M.
 Training Class.....5:00 P.M.
 Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 September 30, 2018

Is Your Pastor Really a Pastor?
by Bryan Gibson

The words in the Bible—these are God’s words (1 Corinthians 2:13), and so we need to be careful to use them the same way He does. This would help clear up much of the religious confusion in the world today. That the word “pastor” has been frequently misused can be seen from the following study.

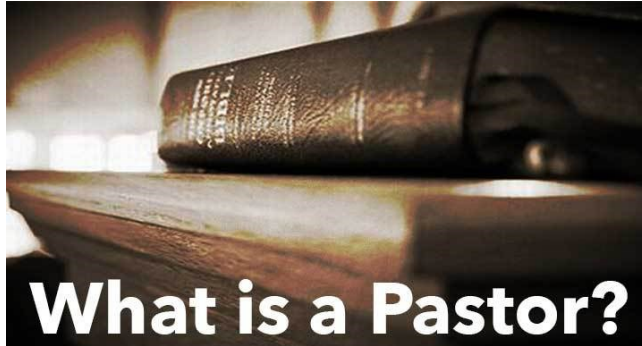
The word “pastor” is only found one time in the major translations of the New Testament—in its plural form: “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some **pastors** and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11, NKJV). It is translated from the Greek word, *poimen*, which simply means shepherd. Not surprisingly, then, the other 17 times this Greek word appears in the New Testament, it is translated shepherd. Sometimes it refers to actual shepherds of sheep (e.g. Luke 2:8); other times it has a spiritual application,

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referring to Jesus Christ, who is the Shepherd of our souls (e.g. Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25).

These pastors or shepherds mentioned in Ephesians 4:11—these are men who serve a particular role in the church (the context of the passage makes that clear). These same men are elsewhere called elders, and it is God’s will that every local

church have them (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). When Paul called for the elders of the church at Ephesus (Acts



20:17), he gave them this instruction: “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28). When the apostle Peter addressed elders (1 Peter 5:1), he gave them similar instructions: “**Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers...” (1 Peter 5:2).

Notice, too, in the passages just cited that these men are also called “overseers,” which comes from a word that is sometimes translated bishop (compare Titus 1:7 among the different translations). So when you’re talking about pastors, shepherds, elders, overseers, and bishops, you’re talking about the same servants within the local church. These are not different

offices, just different terms used to describe the same work or function in the local church.

Obviously, not everyone who preaches can accurately call himself a pastor. One has to be appointed to that role, and not before he has met the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Interestingly enough, some women even call themselves pastors, despite the fact that one of the qualifications is that he must be “the husband of one wife” (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).

Can there be one pastor (shepherd, elder, overseer, bishop) over a local church? Not according to the New Testament. Check the references yourself and you’ll see that every time elders are mentioned in a local church, it is always in the plural (Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2; 20:17; 21:18; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1). If we’re going to follow the New Testament pattern, we’ve got to have more than one.

Lukewarmness

“Lukewarmness is disgusting to God”—the Christians in Laodicea (Revelation 3:15-16).

They don’t have a Facebook account, so I thought I’d post this on their behalf.

