

And here's the difference-The key to the Christian faith isn't how we live, *it's why we live the way they do.* And that's all the difference in the world.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant *brought back from the dead (exile)* our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, Heb.13:20 In the Bible, *exile is one of the main metaphors for what's wrong with us, exile as it were describes our human condition before God.*

There are lots of shepherds all over the world who come and tell you how to live, *but Jesus is the only one who can say I am the Shepherd who becomes a lamb.*

Religion says, "If I try really hard to live right, God will accept me."

The Gospel says, "Because of the incredible sacrifice of Jesus Christ you're already accepted, now live right."

Three signs to tell you that the gospel is in your life:

- 1. Religious people-** feel superior and condemn.
Gospel Christians- knows the only difference between themselves and others is the grace of God.
- 2. Religious people-** Say when things go wrong, *"I have lived a good life, and therefore, God owes me a good life."* Or you get guilty and think, *"I mustn't be living a good enough life."*
Gospel Christians- Know they are *a sinner*, and dare to admit their sin, and know God loves them anyway.
- 3. Religious people-** Moral failure destroys the idea they're a good person.
Gospel Christians-Moral failure drives you further into your foundation because your foundation is the grace of God.

Dan Wilvers- May 28th, 2017 Part 13



Your Called to be Shepherds and to be Shepherded

Hebrews 3:13; 10:24,25; 13:17-25

Hebrews Chapter 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Chapter 10: 24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Chapter 13: 17-25

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. ¹⁸ Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. ¹⁹ I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

²⁰ May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

²² Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter. ²³ I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you. ²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all God's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings. ²⁵ Grace be with you all.

This is God's Word

I. Why are shepherds necessary?

verse 17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over [your souls] ..." -----**That's a shepherding action.**

²⁰ May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, vs. 20

Why do you think the Bible calls us *sheep*?

The metaphor for sheep:

implies that there will be times, spiritually speaking, in which you will lose your way, and without people you have given the authority to hold you accountable, you will not make it home.

Being called a sheep is rather insulting, but it's a necessary insult. Author Tim Keller

2 equal and opposite mistakes you can make about shepherding.

1. The great danger of being your own shepherd.
2. The danger of allowing someone too much authority.

Rightfully placed and trusted authority is a good thing, but authoritarianism is not.

Emotionally dependent authoritarianism- If you look to anyone to be the great shepherd of your soul. Whether parent, kid, boyfriend, girlfriend, a friend or spouse. In other words you make their connection to you an ultimate connection.

Leader authoritarianism- We have lots of people, particularly in religion, that give themselves to leaders who exercise way too much control over every part of their lives.

II. Who should be the shepherds in your life?

(3 Answers)

- **Your peers (contemporaries)**

encourage one another daily ... so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." Hebrews 3:13

What qualification do they have to help me live the way I should live?" The answer is they're not you.

- **Jesus**

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, *that great Shepherd* of the sheep, Hebrews 13:20

- **Your pastors**

If you have peer shepherding and on the other end you have Jesus as the Great Shepherd, then it's safe to do verse 17 in chapter 13.

...obey *your leaders* and submit to them and to their authority for their keeping watch over your soul. Hebrews 13:17

Now that you have the balance of one-on-one shepherding and you have the balance of Jesus shepherding, you have to join the church where they're leaders.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing. Hebrews 10:25

III. What does a shepherd do?

Shepherds tell you how to live. But keep this in mind. Every single religion and every moral community in the world has shepherds with a set of rules on how you shape people.

Is there no difference? All the difference in the world.