

What is a Pastor For?

Today we did something that we've never had to do officially before.

We installed a pastor.

No, she isn't an appliance or a piece of software.

Installation in the historic sense means that she is being specifically called by God to serve him in a particular local church community.

The Bible teaches that the church is both a universal and local body.

Every believer who truly calls Jesus Lord and Saviour is a part of the church universal.

But every believer can only live out that calling among a particular community.

There can be many local expressions of the church but we each are called to belong to one in particular because it is in one church that we find accountability, support and mission.

Church hopping and shopping is never a good idea.

But since we have a new pastor in our community I think it is a good idea to visit a few important concepts.

What is a Pastor?

"Pastor" is a Latin word for Shepherd.

Jesus is of course the good shepherd, but there are specific people who are called to serve as a kind of assistant shepherd to him.

What does a pastor do?

But what does the Bible say?

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

In other words, the purpose of a spiritual leader is to build the church – that is the people – by nurturing them to become what they are called to be. The role is to equip and ready and grow God’s People, the church. To help you find what God has asked you to do and then help you do it. It may be small, it may be big. Parenting, Politics, Business, Academics, Friends, whatever you are called to.

How?

This is a very interesting question because we have a lot of images of what a leader or spiritual leader is.

We may think of a CEO who manages and organizes and give direction. (Gates)

We may think of a figurehead who stands at the front of a movement. (Bono)

We may think of a spiritual person who is a moral example. (Ghandi)

Not a CEO, not a master and commander, not a know-it-all, not a figurehead.

They are mother and father, the cure of souls.

Their role is to nurture.

And it is done in three primary ways.

1. Pray for the People.
2. Preach the Word of God.
3. Guide the People.

His name is Jesus.

Pray, Preach, & Guide.

To replace any of this will spell disaster for the church.

Two Unique Dimensions of F3C

1. The Symbiosis of Pastor & People

A pastor is to feed the church spiritually.

The church is asked to feed the pastor practically.

Our community does this in s very unique way.

Instead of using merit we use need.

We do not support a pastor according to their credentials

but according to their need ass assessed by the elders.

2. We do this Two by Two

Pastors are not perfect and it can be a difficult and solitary job. Jesus' wisdom was to send his disciples out into ministry two by two and not alone.

This has several benefits.

The first is accountability.

The second is friendship.

The third is breadth of discipleship.

Our community will always seek to have more than one pastor if possible for spiritual health.

The Servants of the Servants of God

Spiritual leadership is not about accolades and self-satisfaction.

Jesus said that the one who would be the great among you must become the servant of all.

You are on the front lines of kingdom ministry every day.

Your pastor is meant to serve you, love you, support you, correct you.

We remind you of the purpose of your Christian life.

We are not better than you.

If anything, we need your prayers desperately.

You are the servants of God.

You serve the King and his kingdom.

And we as pastors serve you.

We remind one another what we live for.