

The Privilege of Serving as a Pastor

(1 Timothy 3:14-16)

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Pastors (and the church itself) once held a prominent position in the makeup of American society, but we no longer receive much respect. It is only as we see the church as God sees it that we can appreciate the enormous privilege we have to serve as shepherds of God's people. In our passage, the Apostle Paul sets forth a vision of the church that ought to inspire us to press on faithfully in the task God has given us.

I. The Church as "the Household of God."

The Pastor as "father"

caring for people in the family of God.

II. The Church as "the Gathered People of the Living God."

The Pastor as "worship leader"

bringing people into the presence of God.

III. The Church as "the Pillar and the Foundation of the Truth."

The Pastor as "theologian"

guiding people in the truth of the gospel of God.

But is this what our churches look like?

Don't Be Misled—

The Church and the "Mystery of the Gospel"



Dr. Kynes' Select Bibliography:

Here are a few books of varying sorts that I have found helpful over the years in shaping how I think about pastoral ministry:

Carson, D. A. *From Triumphalism to Maturity: An Exposition of 2 Corinthians 10-13*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.

Savage, Timothy B. *Power Through Weakness: Paul's Understanding of the Christian Ministry in 2 Corinthians*. SNTMS 86. Cambridge: University Press, 1996.

Christian leadership is distinctive, and in his Corinthian correspondence (and esp. 2 Cor. 10-13) the Apostle Paul most clearly reveals its contrast with the ways of the world. These two books have helped me to wrestle with what he has to teach us.

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. London: SCM, 1956 [first published in 1655].

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry with an Inquiry into the Causes of its Inefficiency*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991 [first published in 1830].

These two classic treatments of pastoral ministry give us some historical context for understanding what we do.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987.

Eugene Peterson has always stimulated my thinking, as he constantly cuts against the grain of much Evangelical thinking on the subject of pastoral ministry. If nothing else, read the Introduction to this book!

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society*. New York: Doubleday, 1979.

Neuhaus, Richard John. *Freedom for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1979.

These two writers from outside our Evangelical circle have helpful insights on a vision of Christian ministry that reflects the character of Jesus.

Hughes, Kent and Barbara. *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome*. Wheaton, Tyndale House, 1988.

Horton, Michael. *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

These two books help to combat the constant barrage of messages that bombard us about what success in ministry means. I need to hear what they say.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. and Owen Strachan, *The Pastor as Public Theologian: Reclaiming a Lost Vision*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.

In this recent book, not to be missed, Vanhoozer and Strachan expound the crucial role of theology in the work of a pastor.