

Pastor Each Other



As we have come out of the church system where there are titles and offices, we are used to having someone with a 'tag' do specific jobs for the group. This is sort of how the Body is supposed to operate, but in community, we all have a function, not just a chosen few.

I am not a pastor, although I can pastor. In community, I operate apostolically, prophetically and didactically, but not pastorally. Sure, I mentor and father young men, but I'm not the resident pastor.

In a small community where we are learning to become family, everyone needs to take on the role of pastoring. If we don't stand up and take on this role, NO ONE will do it and we will all miss out on that function of the Body.

'Pastor' comes from the Greek word *poimēn* (ποιμήν) meaning 'shepherd'. A shepherd looks after the welfare of the sheep, and so pastoral activity in Community is looking after one another. This is what good, functional families do.

The function in a Kingdom Community is not about a leadership role, but about the welfare of the members. Not necessarily about sicknesses and counselling, as much as coming alongside and supporting wherever support of any kind is needed. It may be counselling, it may be a listening ear, it may be helping with a job at home, or it may even be financial. Wherever and when ever someone is in need, pastoring comes into play.

So, keep an eye on each other. Without being a busybody in their affairs watch for tell-tale signs that others need support – mental, emotional, physical, spiritual, financial & relational. Meet with them socially at a convenient time and location, and spend some time with them to see what can be done.

Pastoring requires access to others, so gain permission and watch how you carry out the pastoring.

I'll keep an eye open myself and in my oversight role be the mediator of any issues that may arise.

Laurence

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