

The Shepherding Leadership Style

Webster's Dictionary defines a shepherd as: 1 : a person who tends and guards sheep 2 : a **PASTOR**

"A shepherding leader builds a team slowly, loves team members deeply, nurtures them gently, supports them consistently, and listens to them patiently. This kind of leader draws team members into a rich "community" experience that results in energetic achievement of their mission." Bill Hybels

Good shepherds know that communicating well with their sheep promotes their safety and their ability to achieve their potential.

Seven Rules for Communicating with Your Flock in a World Full of Coyotes

**I believe that the universal appeal of sports stems from the fact that in this one arena of life nearly everyone who participates voluntarily plays by the rules of the respective game. Everyone seems to understand that without rules and a commitment to follow them, the game will be of no interest to its players or the spectators. If, in our daily interactions with those around us, we fail to adhere to a few elementary rules of conduct, the "game" of life becomes nearly intolerable, and deep personal relationships become impossible. Over the years I have found the following principles to be simple and obvious, but are frequently overlooked in our attempts to resolve the conflicts in our lives. If you want to relate well to others and shepherd your flock effectively, you must:*

- 1. Say what you mean, and mean what you say.**
(Be a shepherd of integrity.)
- 2. Do your best to understand what the other person is saying before you respond.**
(Be a shepherd of intelligence.)
- 3. Have no "off limits" subjects; everything is open for discussion - over communicate.**
(Be a shepherd of courage.)
- 4. Be kind; never use profanity or rage to gain advantage.**
(Be a shepherd of class.)
- 5. Overlook the "small stuff," and most of it is "small stuff."**
(Be a shepherd of character.)
- 6. Determine to resolve every conflict as quickly and completely as possible; "walking off the field" is not allowed.**
(Be a shepherd of peace.)
- 7. Always take the high road.**
(Be a shepherd like Jesus.)

John 10:11-14 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. NIV

Shepherds:

Know sheep - sheep need the basics - food, water, security, a sense of belonging (Matt Moler and believing in him)

Know the Landscape - living large

Know Predators - the world, the flesh, and the devil

*RVL on "green pastures"

Ingomar Sheep Story

- 1. *Good Shepherds* feed their flock -**
- 2. *Good Shepherds* protect their flock from predators and from hurting themselves (offendable, fearful, and insecure)**
- 3. *Good Shepherds* develop their flock**

John 10:1-5 "I assure you, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! 2 For a shepherd enters through the gate. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they recognize his voice. 5 They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't recognize his voice." NLT