Day 31

The Character of a Shepherd

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 3:1–7
Titus 1:5–9

Key Verse

"An overseer, then, must be above reproach..."
1 Timothy 3:2

Today's Devotional

When churches search for a pastor, it is easy to become impressed by outward qualities.

Education.

Experience.

Communication skills.

Leadership ability.

Those things certainly matter.

Yet when Paul describes the qualifications for an overseer, he emphasizes something far more important.

Character.

Read the list carefully.

Above reproach.

Faithful to his wife.

Self-controlled.

Respectable.

Hospitable.

Able to teach.

Not addicted to wine.

Not violent.

Gentle.

Peaceable.

Free from the love of money.

Managing his household well.

Holding firmly to God's Word.

Notice what is missing.

Paul says nothing about personality style.

Nothing about popularity.

Nothing about charisma.

Why?

Because God is far more concerned with who a man **is** than merely what he **does**.

A gifted preacher without godly character can damage a church.

A humble shepherd who faithfully loves Christ and His people becomes a tremendous blessing.

As we pray for our future Associate Pastor, let us ask God to continue shaping him into a man who reflects the character of Christ.

Pray also for his wife and family.

Ministry is never carried by one person alone.

The Lord often prepares an entire family for the work He is calling them to do.

May God continue preparing them—even if they do not yet know where He is leading.

Think About It

1. Which pastoral qualification stands out most to me?
2. Why is character more important than talent in spiritual leadership?
3. How can I pray more specifically for our future pastor's family?

Today's Prayer

Father,

Raise up shepherds who love You more than ministry, who treasure Your Word above personal recognition, and who faithfully care for Your people.

Prepare the man You have chosen for Riva Trace Baptist Church.

Bless his wife.

Strengthen his family.

Lead them with unmistakable clarity in Your perfect time.

Amen.

Today's Fast

Fast from evaluating people by outward appearance.

Instead, pray that God will continue producing Christlike character in your own life and in the life of the future Associate Pastor.

Prayer Focus

Pray for the future Associate Pastor's spiritual life, marriage, children, and extended family—even if you do not yet know their names.