

February 8, 2026
I Thessalonians 3:1-10 A Few Good Men

Principles And Practical Application

PASTORS HAVE A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY AS SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS

As spiritual shepherd of the Thessalonians Paul poured his life into the lives of those in the flock.

The quality of selflessness was a clear mark of personal sacrifice Paul made for their well being.

Paul's sacrifice included loneliness; he suffered afflictions and did not withhold letting them know that by following Christ, they too would suffer. The supreme example of sacrifice is found in Jesus Christ.

Paul experienced fear that was rooted in concern over those in his care, v 5.

Paul feared that the tempter, v5, would come in and wreak havoc among the flock.

A good shepherd has on him the smell of sheep. When the flock does well, he does well, v 6.

The success of the flock standing firm is the shepherd's joy, v 8. John wrote about this see **III John 4**.

When the flock does well the shepherd rejoices. This joy, v 9, is accompanied with thanksgiving.

Paul bore grave concern that they lacked sufficient knowledge of God, v 10. Correct doctrine is essential.

A good shepherd spends time in the hard work of intercession for his flock.

Application: MEN HAVE A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HOME AS SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS

Tom Elliff put together a list of questions a husband should ask his wife once a year. Shepherding her heart, guys, is beautifully expressed in **I Peter 3:7**. Here are some of the suggested yearly questions:

1. What could I do to make you feel more loved?
2. What could I do to make you feel more respected?
3. What could I do to make you feel more understood?
4. What could I do to make you feel more secure?
5. What attribute would you like me to develop?
6. What would indicate to you that I really desire to be more Christ-like?

7. What mutual goal would you like to see us accomplish?

The author goes on to say that this type of vulnerability takes courage. His favorite verse instructing husbands in the way to be good spiritual leaders is **1 Peter 3:7**. Just like shepherds lead their flocks in the fields and God's under-shepherds are to lead the flock entrusted to their care, each man as head of household is to lead and shepherd those who live in the home. Author *Tedd Trip* wrote an excellent book entitled, *Shepherding A Child's Heart*. This is another field in which the man of God is called to lead and shepherd. Paul gives us many examples of how to shepherd those in our care in this passage.