



ONE FLOCK, ONE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE CHURCH | WEEK 7
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John 10:7-18

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

The Church Series So Far:

- Living Stones - we are formed not just informed
- Royal Priesthood - we are contributors not consumers
- Body of Christ - we are interdependent not independent
- Household of God - we are family not just somewhat familiar
- Bride of Christ - we commit like a marriage not a dating relationship

Other times, we have too low of a view of church because we have too high of a view of us.

→ Out of the 130 animals mentioned in the Bible, God chose sheep to describe us.

Characteristics of Sheep:

- Sheep tend to follow others blindly.
- Sheep are emotionally complex.
- Sheep are not good at carrying burdens.
- Sheep often settle for less.
- Sheep are defenseless.
- Isolation is destructive to sheep.
- Sheep are easily distracted.

Until we admit and accept what is true, we'll never realize what is possible.

→ He calls us sheep because it reveals our needs and who He is as the shepherd who meets them.

We aren't just any sheep. We are His Sheep.

John 10:16b

So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

A Shepherd:

- Protects and defends (*John 10 - Lays life down for us, doesn't run*)
- Guides to a place of flourishing, provides for (*Psalm 23 - I lack nothing*)
- Comforts and cares for (*Isaiah 40 - carries flock close to his heart*)
- Carries burdens/loads (*Isaiah 53 - our iniquity laid on him*)
- Rescues when in danger (*Luke 15 - leaves 99*)

QUESTION: Is there anything or anyone other than or in addition to Jesus that you look to for these things?

John 10:8,16, 27

All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ...And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

1 John 4:18a

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

Slang is cultural. Truth is Biblical.

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

→ Jesus calls us to be a people of presence, not people of texting.

We experience the compassion of our Shepherd when we, as the flock, care for one another.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. How does your version of the Church match up to what Jesus intended? How does your experience and definition of the Church fall short?**
- 2. Do you have other “shepherds” in your life? Who or what might you be listening to and depending on instead of Jesus?**
- 3. How often do you listen to the voice of Jesus through the word of God? Describe a time when He spoke.**
- 4. Is there anyone right now who needs your presence? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do?**

