

RECOGNIZING TRUE SHEPHERDS

October 1, 2017

Introduction: Jesus is the True Shepherd. He calls his sheep. The sheep know his voice and follow him. He is also the Door, protecting the flock, the one who lays down his life for the sheep. The qualities of the True Shepherd are also characteristics needed by those who serve as our elders. As we explore these characteristics, remember that next Sunday, October 8, Elder Recommendation Forms will be due by the end of morning service. Please keep praying for this process, and that God will lead us to those he has chosen.

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-19

- I. Shepherds know the sheep, and the sheep know the shepherd.

¹ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but **climbs in by another way**, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The **sheep hear his voice**, and he **calls his own sheep by name and leads them out**. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he **goes before them**, and **the sheep follow him**, for **they know his voice**. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers”* (John 10:1–5).

What to look for? An Individual who...

1. Is respected and attentive.
2. Is not looking for status.

- II. A Shepherd must be able to point sheep to the True Shepherd.

⁷ *So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ **I am the door**. If anyone **enters by me**, he **will be saved** and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that **they may have life and have it abundantly** (John 10:7–10).*

What to look for? An Individual who...

1. Is a Jesus person.
2. Brings life to the sheep.

- III. A Shepherd must be willing to come between the flock and danger, even at the cost of his life.

¹¹ *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life** for the sheep. ¹² 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.*** ¹³ *He flees because he is a hired hand and **cares nothing for the sheep** (John 10:10–13).*

What to look for? An Individual who...

1. Is committed to the sheep.
2. Is willing to step into difficult situations.
3. Cares for every sheep.

IV. A Shepherd is concerned with the sheep's growth.

¹⁴ *I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me,*** ¹⁵ *just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and **I lay down my life for the sheep.*** ¹⁶ *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** (John 10:14–16).*

What to look for? An Individual who...

1. Makes spiritual growth a priority.
2. Is willing to give of himself.
3. Expands the flock.
4. Demands unity of Christ's flock.

¹⁷ *For this reason the Father loves me, because **I lay down my life** that I may take it up again.* ¹⁸ *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.*** ¹⁹ *There was again a division among the Jews because of these words (John 10:17–19).*

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Scripture Reading: John 10:1-19

- I. Shepherds _____ the sheep, and the sheep _____ the shepherd. (*John 10:1-5*)
 1. Is _____ and _____.
 2. Is not looking for _____.
- II. A Shepherd must be able to _____ sheep to the True Shepherd. (*John 10:7-10*)
 1. Is a _____ person.
 2. Brings _____ to the sheep.
- III. A Shepherd must be willing to come between the flock and _____, even at the cost of his _____. (*John 10:10-13*)
 1. Is _____ to the sheep.
 2. Is willing to step into _____ situations.
 3. Cares for _____ sheep.
- IV. A Shepherd is concerned with the sheep's _____. (*John 10:14-16*)
 1. Makes _____ a priority.
 2. Is willing to _____ of himself.
 3. _____ the flock.
 4. Demands _____ of Christ's flock.