

ALFONSE JAVED

Philosophy of Ministry Statement

Summary

First and foremost, the purpose of my life and even my very being is to glorify God and to worship Him in Spirit and truth (John 4:24). This deep conviction calls me to live out my faith in words and actions as I strive to become more like Christ (Romans 12:1-2). This conviction has formed my philosophy of ministry.

Personal Philosophy

My personal philosophy of ministry is directly related to the purpose of my life and the church as mandated in the Scriptures by which I, as a follower of Jesus Christ, am compelled to embody the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. I aim to serve the Lord by utilizing my spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8) i.e., teaching, preaching, pastoring and administration (Ephesians 4:11-13) to edify and encourage the body of Christ (Acts 20:28; Matthew 10:5-8; Proverbs 18:1-2, 13-14). I believe Christ is building His church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18), but He places the responsibility of evangelization on us in this collaborative kingdom work (Corinthians 3:5-11). Thus, the proclamation of the Gospel verbally and the demonstration of the Kingdom of God in love and truth privately and publicly is paramount to living a Christian life that must be taught (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Colossians 1:21; Mark 1:38-39) and exemplified (1 Timothy 4:6-12; Luke 6:40). In this manner, the objective of my ministry (starting with my own family), is to love others, to preach the Gospel boldly (Romans 10:17), to execute the duties of the pastor's office faithfully (2 Timothy 4:2), and to point people to the redemptive work of Jesus responsibly.

Guiding Principle

I believe equipping believers (Ephesians 4:11-16) and reaching unbelievers are the most critical aspects of my pastoral ministry. This begins in the pulpit through expositional preaching and is demonstrated in and through intentionally developing a culture of disciple-making, which leads to equipping believers to do the work of ministry within their sphere of influence (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 12:28-31, Eph. 4:11-13).

Pastoral Ministry

1 Peter 5:2-3 and 1 Thessalonians 2:8 further guide and refine my understanding of my pastoral ministry.

- 1 Peter 5:2-3 says, "Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8 says "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

In the New Testament three terms, elder, overseer, and shepherd are interchangeably used for the pastoral office (1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:17-35), therefore, my role as a pastor is threefold:

- **A Teaching Elder.** The Bible describes the office of elder using 22 qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Each quality should be true of all Christians; elders should live above reproach exemplifying them to the congregation. I believe teaching is the elder's primary responsibility. 1 Timothy 3:2 requires an elder to be "able to teach," and Titus 1:9 adds, "able to give instruction in sound doctrine." As a philosophy of preaching, I believe in fulfilling the elder office by consecutive, expository preaching of God's Word. Expository preaching means that the point of the text is the point of the sermon and consecutive preaching is meant to reflect that sermons would normally and sequentially follow the text as given in the Bible paragraph-by-paragraph.
- **A Leading Overseer.** The Bible says that churches are led by overseers. 1 Timothy 3:1 teaches, "If anyone aspires to the office of overseers he desires a noble task," and in Acts 20:28, we are instructed, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." So, pastors are leaders. As leaders, pastors must lead by example, furthermore, leadership in the church must be shared, which is why the New Testament churches had a plurality of overseers. So, by the grace of God I strive to lead by example in all aspects of my life and uphold a plurality of leadership.
- **A Shepherding Pastor.** There is truth to the phrase, shepherds should smell like sheep. 1 Peter 5:2 says, "shepherd the flock of God that is among you." As a pastor, I am responsible to know and pray for the members that God has entrusted to my care in a local church, because I will give an account to God for them (Hebrews 13:17). Shepherding work includes personal interaction, soul care, and spiritual discipleship. I desire to be a shepherd who loves and serves his people.

In my understanding, my pastoral role as an elder refers to the spirituality to lead, overseer refers to the competency to lead, and shepherd shows the heart to lead. These reflect my understanding and philosophy of pastoral ministry.