

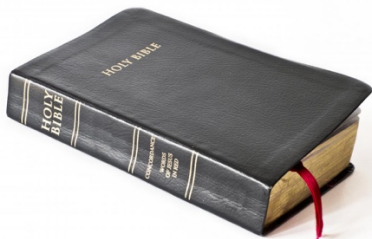
Divine Life Church Worship & Training Center

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Let's Connect: December 6, 2023, 2023

Shepherds vs. Hirelings III Apostle Tony Wade What's in the Fold?

A church is like a sheep fold. The ecclesia is God's church. The ecclesia consists of the local body and the whole body of Christ. Each local body has a local shepherd. Everyone that is born again becomes a part of the body of Christ. Some people that are born again, do not belong to a local church. For various reasons, people don't want to be a part of a local church. Satan fights against community fellowship because he understands the value of the local church and the work the local church is called to do in the community and the nation. The fold consists of the shepherd, sheepdog (watchmen), and the sheep. The shepherd is inside of the fold and is responsible for caring for the sheep. A shepherd should have the characteristics of Jesus, demonstrate a love for the flock (sheep). A good shepherd smells like sheep because he/she is among them. A good shepherd loves people and their flock. The sheepdog (watchmen) helps the shepherd watch and care for the flock. The sheep are those the shepherd is responsible for.



God's word will not return void!

Jeremiah 3: 15

1. A shepherd should have the heart of God and feed the sheep with truth (God's word). According to scripture, we must desire the sincere milk of the word.
 - a. Does your desire for the word dictate how you spend or organize your time?
2. Shepherds are not entertainers but are called to develop you spiritually. Conferences sessions (with a shepherd) are conducted for the sheep to grow.
 - a. Give an example of when you applied knowledge/wisdom from a conference session?
3. There are two types of truth: milk and meat. The milk is basic understanding of God's truth. It is having a clear understanding of who Jesus is and what salvation is. The meat is the deeper spiritual things of God.
 - a. What is your current diet, milk or meat?
 - b. Do you have a clear understanding of who Jesus is?
 - c. Do you have a clear understanding of who you are in Jesus?
 - d. Were you originally exposed to milk or meat?
 - i. If you were originally exposed to milk (foundation), how has your walk matured?
 - ii. If you were originally exposed to meat (deep spiritual insights), what have you done to lay a solid foundation in truth.?
4. When a believer has a strong foundation based on truth, life's circumstances generally don't cause him/her to leave God. An example of the importance of truth is the passing of a loved one who died in the Lord. We are to not sorrow as those with no hope.
 - a. Does knowing the scripture, "to be absent with the body is to be present with the Lord" increase your desire to be a harvester of souls?
 - b. Because charity begins at home, are you fervently praying for your lost loved ones?
 - c. Are you willing to commit to evangelism as part of the mission of DLC?
5. God entrusts shepherds to be responsible for your soul. Shepherds must present the sheep back to God in a better state than when the shepherd received the sheep. Because of accountability, shepherds can only shepherd a sheep that he/she can see and touch.
 - a. Are you willing to be "seen" and "touched" by the shepherd?
 - b. Are you willing to adjust your lifestyle because of the wisdom and guidance of the shepherd?
6. Shepherds must live the life he/she preaches, and his/her life should point the sheep to Jesus. A shepherd

