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

- 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?
- 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?

- b. Give an example of a fruit from your life because of a conference session with Apostle or someone with legal authority to operate and DLC?
- 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?
 - 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 then 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

should be a living epistle modeling Jesus before the flock.

- a. Is your life a living epistle?
- Is Jesus' character evident in your marriage, family life, stewardship, or how you treat people?

John 10: 1 – 17

- Shepherds who enter the sheepfold by the door have legal authority. If a shepherd enters the fold any other way, he/she has illegal authority.
- Sheep know the voice of the shepherd and must recognize what is coming from the shepherd benefits him/her, therefore I (sheep) should follow the voice of the shepherd.
 - a. How has Apostle's voice benefitted you?
 - b. Do you honor Apostle's voice in your life?
- 9. Shepherds lead the sheep by example. Whatever the shepherd has, is available to the sheep. It is important to know who you are yoked to.
 - a. Do you recognize the value of the yoke between you and Apostle & Prophetess?
- Shepherds give their life for the sheep. Hirelings will flee when the wolf comes. Hirelings are not concerned for the wellness of the sheep. Because Apostle cares for the flock, DLC has systems in place to watch for your well-being (marriage, family, health, finances, etc.).
 - a. How have you benefitted from a system within DLC?
 - b. How have you contributed to a system within DLC?

2 Thessalonians 2:9

- 11. A good shepherd gives the sheep the truth of God's word. Lawlessness is the working of Satan through deception. Believers must know and love the truth of God's word so he/she will not be deceived. Truth must be loved more than the gifts of God. If a person loves God's touch but doesn't love His truth, he/she will be deceived. By studying truth, the fake will stand out.
 - a. Do you want to know God's ways or God's acts?
 - b. Are you committed and consistent to studying God's truth.

Matthew 24: 3

- 12. Deception will be prevalent in the last days. Many will come claiming to be Christ. The truth of God's word must be in your belly so you will not be deceived.
 - a. Is your belly full of truth?

- 13. Signs and wonders don't validate if something is real or not, Truth validates the authenticity of something.
 - a. Have you ever been deceived by the gifts of a person?
 - b. Are you a fruit inspector?
 - c. Do you have Godly character?
 - d. If you mess up, do you make it right?

Isaiah 62: 6

- 14. Watchmen help the shepherd watch for the sheep and care for them. Watchmen should have the heart of the shepherd towards the sheep. They have been given authority from the shepherd to have that position.
 - a. Do you honor the watchmen of the house?

Website:

www.DivineLifeMemphis.org

Link Tree:

https://linktr.ee/divinelifechurch

Notes:

