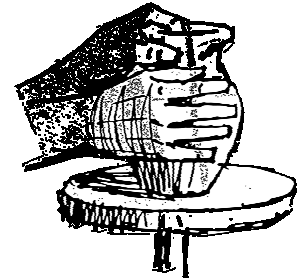


His Workmanship: Westside

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

Developing Healthy Eldership Patterns, by Berry Kercheville

“Give a shepherd’s care to God’s flock...and do not lord it over those entrusted to you,” 1 Pet 5:2-3 (NET). [The Westside church will be appointing new elders in the next month, and the church is praying and studying about God’s plans.]

God requires an enormous amount of care for elders to do the shepherding work that He entrusts to them. The time involved is overwhelming. Evangelists and some Christians who are professional counselors are accustomed to a certain amount of pastoral work because they are often involved in teaching new Christians and keeping those who are vulnerable (or their business clients) from falling. There are few things more time consuming than saving souls and building them up to maturity or rescuing a Christian who has fallen. Since most elders must work a full-time job, the challenge for them can be daunting.

Manager-Elders. Time constraints can create a dangerous tendency of turning an eldership into men who are reactive instead of proactive. In other words, elders can fall into a habit of “stamping out fires” because there is little time to do anything else. And there are always plenty of fires to stamp out. Soon elders have become managers who keep the “organization” operating smoothly, but lack shepherding skills and vision to

move the church to maturity, Eph 4:11-16. As new generations arise, this “eldering” pattern becomes entrenched—younger Christians can’t assimilate the art of shepherding because they do not see it happening. Many men desire to be elders but have not demonstrated any shepherding skills, and yet the church appoints them anyway. They are good men who have reared good families, but they have never practiced strengthening the weak, seeking the lost, and healing the spiritually sick, Ezek 34. This is especially true when elders cannot or do not relate to younger Christians, Christians who are most susceptible to falling, future leaders of the church, or those who have the greatest need to be nurtured and equipped. *Brother, until you practice healing, strengthening, seeking, feeding, bringing back, you should not become a shepherd.*

Deacons have nearly identical qualifications as elders. They should be quite capable of handling the needs that do not fall into the role of shepherds, Acts 6; but elders must shepherd. After all, there is not time to be a manager in the church and at the same time connect closely enough with vulnerable Christians to lead them to become strong or have any influence over them when

they stumble. The “stamp out fires” pattern of leading is counterproductive to shepherding. Without a relationship with weaker Christians before they are beset with trials or fall into sin, an elder has little or no real influence with them. In these situations, an elder is seen as an authority figure, like going to the principal’s office when someone misbehaves in school. Here is where a shepherd especially needs to be proactive and not reactive. In any church, there are at least a third of the members who have a strong potential for failure or a strong need for maturity. These are the Christians upon which shepherds and other mature brethren should be focusing. Instead, too often we see shepherds primarily connected to mature Christians who are also hanging out with other mature Christians. This is not the pattern we see in Ephesians 4:11-16.

Lording It over the Flock? In 1 Peter 5, we notice the command for elders to shepherd and be examples to the flock instead of being a lord over the flock. When elders fall into managerial roles instead of fostering shepherding relationships, they lose the ability to know the personalities that make up the flock. In so doing, they lose the personal, compassionate touch needed to shepherd. When elders and other mature

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"An elder should rule his own house wisely/well," 1 Tim 3:4,

brethren see the church as an organization to be managed, the result is to govern the church instead of looking out after spiritual needs. Manager-elders are more externally focused, primarily giving their attention to Sunday and Wednesday assemblies and those who lead those assemblies. They also have a tendency to micro-manage the work of the members. The local church becomes a culture of needing permission to do God's work or criticizing work that is done. This even spills over into worship where managerial rules are multiplied until every part of worship follows the same template from week to week. There is no room heartfelt expressions of faith or scriptural variations. Did the Lord's Supper talk go too long? Let's make a rule against that. Did the worship leader plan six songs instead of three? Let's tell him to stop doing that. Anything that is a little out of the ordinary or doesn't quite fit the tradition must be reined in. We can easily forget that we are not performing a worship service, but are a group of Christians coming together to "stir one another up to love and good works," Heb 10:24-25. We have come together to worship and honor God in order to grow to be more like Jesus, not to polish up five acts of worship to look as pretty as possible.

On the other hand, what is being neglected? Have the elders laid out spiritual goals for the church and how such goals will be met? Is there a plan for how we will evangelize the lost in the coming year? In what ways do the members need to be edified and unified? Are there five-year plans for equipping the saints for service? Managerial elders cannot answer these questions and therefore can easily strain gnats and swallow camels.

We have quoted 1 Pet 5:3 and its warning, but we rarely ask, "What would lording over a flock look like? When has an elder gone from being a shepherd to

being a lord?" Lording is not just being a bossy elder. It can be more subtle, as when elders' opinions are turned into rules or when Christians who have problems with other Christians go to the elders to work it out before going directly to one another (making the elders nannies). A better question is "how does an elder keep from lording?" The answer is that shepherds watch over sheep. Shepherds don't lord.



They watch, tend, nurture, guard, feed. Shepherds aren't rule-makers (sheep aren't very good at following rules anyway—but sheep do follow examples). Shepherds lead, protect, feed the flock in good pastures, seek the sheep who has gone

astray, "deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day," find safe places of rest (enfold), and apply salve to the wounded lambs, Ezek 34 (esp. vs. 12, 14-16). They heal the sick (of mind and soul), strengthen the weak, bind up the broken, bring back the sheep who were driven away, and seek the lost (and that's just in verse 4 of Ezek 34). When an elder connects and cares for the vulnerable in the church, he does not think about making his opinions into rules. In other words: to avoid lording, don't manage—be a shepherd.

Consider how a husband relates to his wife. The home is where an elder learns his skill of leading the church. As a husband and father, he has not developed healthy leadership skills unless he has an ongoing relationship of love, care, and nurturing. A man is the provider and protector of his home. He must lead from service and example. As a husband, does he force his

opinions on his wife? Does he tell her what the house should look like when he comes home from work? Does he complain his egg's yolk is too runny? How does he speak to his wife when there is a problem or when he would like his family to make an adjustment? Does he bark orders? Or does he say, "I have some ideas I would like to discuss with you so I can hear your suggestions and take our family to a better place"? Shepherds know that God wants the church to function as a family, not as a corporation where authority is exercised over others. Thus an elder should shepherd (or husband) the church as he husbands his family. "But Jesus called them to Him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,'" Mt 20:25-28; Mk 10:42-45. Elders face a broad challenge in using their time to be shepherds, but the plea of the apostle Peter is "Give a shepherd's care to God's flock..."

Keep It Low and the Weeds Won't Show, by Tim Jennings

Our house was the last one built in an older, established neighborhood. The houses around us had yards with large trees, beautiful grass, and manicured flowerbeds. Then there was our yard. Once the construction debris was removed, it resembled something like a lunar landscape. We hired a company to spray a mixture of seed and fertilizer on the soil. However, a rain storm washed most of the seed into a pond at the end of the street. As a result, the yard had little islands of grass among a sea of weeds. Of course, the weeds grew faster than the grass, and soon the yard began to resemble the terrain of a war-torn country. So I pulled out the lawnmower, put it on its lowest setting, and mowed the lawn. When I was finished, I stepped back and made a wonderful discovery—my lawn looked

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God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Congress's Abortion Bills, from p. 4 falsely claim, the vast majority of women (especially women with low income) rely on Planned Parenthood for health care, then something must have gone terribly wrong with ObamaCare. Wasn't that supposed to be the fix-all?

In the most dramatic moment of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Hearing investigating Planned Parenthood Friday, Chairman Joe Pitts (R-PA) showed clips from the Center for Medical Progress videos, including some of the most damning evidence of morally reprehensible acts committed in Planned Parenthood facilities. Democrat representatives flew into a frenzy, talking loudly among themselves and their staffs, ignoring the videos, talking over the videos, and raising points of order to try to force Chairman Pitts to turn them off. Why? Because it is hard to handle the truth. But the truth will not be silenced.

The House is engaged in an unprecedented pro-life push—through legislation, hearings, and investigations. The Senate is set to vote on the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* (which the House passed in June) this Tuesday. This measure would "afford basic protection to mothers and their unborn children entering the sixth month of gestation." As Rep. Franks said when he introduced that measure, "More than 18,000 'very late term' abortions are performed every year on perfectly healthy unborn babies in America. These are innocent and defenseless children who cannot only feel pain, but who can survive outside of the womb in most cases, and who are killed without even basic anesthesia."

Discipleship Here At Home

As the Director of Family Research Council's Center for Human Dignity, Arina Grossu, has documented, "A growing body of science reveals an undisputable fact: unborn babies can feel pain by 20 weeks post-fertilization, and most likely even earlier." Given the barbarity shown by the recent Planned Parenthood videos, "We have a unique opportunity to defend the unborn," Franks said. "The sands of time ought to blow over this capital before we give Planned Parenthood another dime." Franks said the issue of life within the womb comes down to two things: "Is there really a God, and are these really babies?" We know the answer to both questions is a resounding "yes."

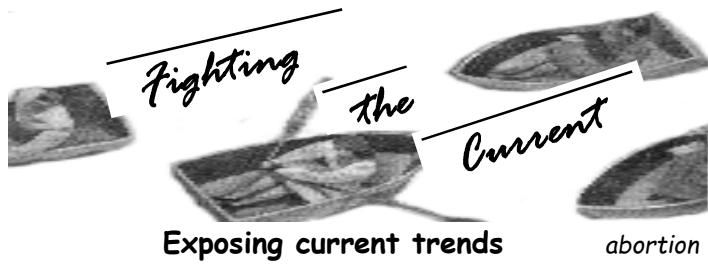


(from p. 3) green and beautiful. The imperfections were still present, but they were less prominent. Why? Because when you keep it low, the weeds don't show.

What is true of lawns is true of life. Pride acts like a megaphone, amplifying our flaws until they create a war-torn landscape of relationships. In contrast, when we live humbly, our flaws don't show nearly as much. Humility is the salve that removes many blemishes to reveal the beauty beneath. Keep it low so your weeds won't show. Don't be quick to boast about what you know, what you have, or who you are. Have a teachable spirit, and don't be afraid to say, "I didn't know that." Give generously without anyone else knowing. Serve someone who really needs help. Praise what someone is doing or how much he means to you. Give God the credit when good things come your way. Stay low, and God promises you will be beautiful. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up," Jas 4:10.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Tracy Corray**—broken bone in foot; boot
 - **Judy Sartin**—hairline fracture in left foot; ortho shoe
 - **Jonathan Hadders**—fractured rib, acute pain
 - **Judy Strand**—broken arm, post-surgery pain
 - **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
 - **Ernesto Gonzalez's father Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma, has started chemo
 - **Linda Szymanski's mother**, age 88—fall, broke ankle, rehab post surgery
 - **Letha Fink's brother Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, recent diagnosis of neuro-muscular disease
 - **Charos' neighbor Evelyn Velasquez**—cancer
 - **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—home after full brain radiation in Denver; improving; 275 Country Meadow Rd, Ignacio, CO 81137
 - **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer, has rallied so well from her PE that she has returned home (temp housing in Memphis until treatments finish in Nov)
 - **Bill Dennis**—home recovery following rehab
 - **Sandra Perry**—diabetes complications; back on oxygen; port to be inserted soon for dialysis
 - **Larry Campbell's FL partner Terry Hargadine's wife Michelle**—cancerous lymph nodes removed, latest scan shows improvement; picc line inserted for chemo
 - **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams's daughter**, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed's son Rodney Schulz** and Sheryle's daughter **Tiffany** receive the gospel; pray **Pat** and **Jeff's son Mike** and grandson **Drew** return to God.
 - **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's grandmother**—third stage pancreatic cancer; Brett's grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Bonnie Doss**—cancer returned
 - **Brittany Tope's mother**—breast cancer, improving; grandmother—on dialysis
 - **CHRONIC CONDITIONS**
Christian Harrod; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes; Ann Cox; Logan Corray; Rocco Jr.—asthma
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Kirk Johnson—MS
Menards—**Lloyd** diabetes, Alzheimers;
Virginia blindness from macular degeneration
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis trtment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness
Travel! The **Topes** will be in DC 9/19-28. The **Shreves** are out of town.
 - **Passing** **Andryssa Lucas's** grandmother recently passed away. Send cards to Willan and Andryssa Lucas, 475 Ray Wesley Herrick St, Apto 102, Bl. 06, Repidencial Mont Park Jockey Clube, Sao Caplos Sao Paulo, Brazil 13565090
- "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble," Pr 3:34; Jas 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5.



Life in the House, by Tony Perkins

Friday, in a loud and chilling statement, every Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives except five voted against a measure that protects babies born alive after a failed abortion. Rep. Trent Franks's *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* passed the House anyway, with unanimous Republican support. "The entire purpose and core reason for government is to protect the innocent," said Franks (R-AZ). The bill makes it a criminal offense for an abortionist to allow a born alive infant to die, whether by neglect (failure to provide standard medical care) or by actively killing the child. "It would also apply stronger penalties in cases where an overt act is taken to kill the abortion survivor."

This should be common sense in a civilized society. This should be basic humanity. And yet the President issued an unusually strong statement in advance of the vote, promising to veto this measure should it come to his desk. In response, Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-TN) declared that it is entirely inexcusable that the President would actively work to prevent a bill that protects our youngest humans. His action, she said, "is a radical, extreme departure from what I know to be right." Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) warned, "We are developing a callousness toward life in this country which is extraordinarily dangerous."

We heard such callousness in absurd opposing statements like that of Ami Bera (D-CA) who stated that this bill "criminalizes the practice of medicine." To all decent Americans, medical practice most certainly does not include the killing of born alive infants, whether by omission or commission. Our thanks goes out to the five Democrats who broke with party ranks to guarantee protection to these children.

The House also passed Diane Black's (R-TN) *Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015*, a measure to strip funding from Cecile Richards's group for a year while congressional investigations are ongoing, with the support of only two Democrats and opposition of three Republicans.

Of course, the Left's objections to the pro-life measures before the House have nothing to do with the substance of the bills. Instead, they rehearse the same tired talking points that have no basis in reality. They refuse to admit that the bill would actually redistribute funds to federally-qualified health centers around the country which are not buried in scandal and under investigation for such horrific practices as partial birth abortion and profiting from the sale of babies' body parts.

There are only 665 Planned Parenthood clinics in America, compared to 13,540 comprehensive health clinics. Defunding Planned Parenthood will in no way limit women's access to health services. If, as Democrats

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meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, A Life-Changing Encounter with Christ from "*The Gospel According to John*," Jonathan Hadders

- **sermon**, "*The Lord's Synergistic Plan for the Work of Elders*," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon singing

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of 1 Samuel this afternoon, 9/20, 4 pm, at Mina Gonzalez's house, to be followed by supper. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.