

PROTOTYPE SHEPHERDS

NUMBER 175

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As is indicated in lesson 6.8 CHURCH ORGANIZATION*, the qualifications of Shepherds are given in I Tim. 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9, and the qualifications of Deacons are given in I Timothy 3:8-13. The qualifications of Shepherds are more detailed, but there is not actually much difference in qualifications.



Continued on page 2

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - GOODNESS



Goodness, defined as “the quality of being morally good or virtuous,” manifests itself externally in the behavior of an individual. Goodness reflects the commitment to God and to sharing His love with others. Often we hear someone say, “God is good,” and

the response of those around is “All the time.” This is a true statement. God is indeed good all the time. Unless your life reflects that goodness of God, you may be seen as unkind, bad, unloving, or other negative behaviors, even selfishness. Fill your life with God’s Word and let His goodness flow from your heart.

Continued on page 4

GOD AS PARENT

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Gal. 3:26 NIV)

What kind of parent is God our Father? Throughout the entire Bible we never escape the label of children, which means we are always in need of guidance and instruction. Most parents want their children to be just like themselves. God has the same goal; He wants his children to have a godly character. Could we assume that He parents just like He told others to parent?

Continued on page 3

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME

Reference: 1 Corinthians 2 The “secret” to becoming transformed into an effective evangelizing disciple is Paul’s model: A **“demonstration the Spirit’s power -so that your faith may not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”** This lifestyle is firmly rooted in belief in and faithful obedience to Jesus and God the Father with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. ?

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

Prototype Shepherds	1
Fruit of the spirit - Goodness	1
God as a Parent - Brown	1
The more things change... - Grubbs	1
Impossible for Evolution	6
Calendar of events	13

PROTOTYPE SHEPHERDS P. 2

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ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF SHEPHERDS

- * Congregational financial responsibility (Acts 11:27□30)
- * Send out missionaries (Acts 15:22)
- * Send letters of recommendation (Acts 15:23)
- * Represent the church to others (Acts 20:17)
- * Shepherd the flock (Acts 20:28)
- * Have charge over the flock (I Thes. 5:12)
- * Oversee (I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:7, I Peter 5:2, Heb. 13:17)
- * Manage church (I Tim. 3:4□5)
- * Have rule over the church (Heb. 13:17, I Tim. 5:17)
- * Exhort (I Tim. 5:9)
- * Refute (I Tim. 5:9)
- * Pray for members (James 5:14)
- * Feed the flock (I Peter 5:2)
- * Public rebuke for continuing sinners is instructed in I Tim. 5:20. The responsibility for this would naturally fall under the supervision of the overseers or rulers.

This list clearly illustrates a comprehensive authority of the Shepherds over the local congregation, and there a resultant responsibility for the results.

There is no comparable listing of the duties of Deacons similar to the listing of the Shepherds.

What is normally taught is that Deacons are in charge of tasks per the example in Acts 6:1-4.

Acts 6:1-4 "Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven

men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (NASV)



As it is a completely reasonable understanding that the 7 men in Acts 6 were prototype Deacons, it may also be reasonable to consider that the Apostles were acting as prototype Shepherds. At the time of the events of Acts 6, neither Deacons or Shepherds had been defined.

Acts 6 is not so much instructive about what Shepherds should do as it simply says that the need to devote themselves to prayer and ministry of the word. That is repeated in I Tim. 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5□9. It is more instructive is what they are not to do. It specifically teaches that they are not to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. They are to put other brethren in charge of this task, and by extension similar tasks or Deacon tasks.

Continued on page 3

PROTOTYPE SHEPHERDS P. 3

GOD AS A PARENT, P. 2

Shepherds are to manage the church (1 Tim. 3:4-5), which would imply that they are to delegate deacon-type work to others so that Shepherds can focus on spiritual guidance. If the Deacons or others do not adequately perform the delegated tasks, the Shepherds are to guide them. This typically means they are to mentor them to do the job better, or move them to a task to which that individual is better suited to succeed. That would additionally indicate that the Shepherds are not to do the deacon-type work which the Deacons are not doing well, except on a temporary basis as they are training or recruiting deacon-type workers.

This would suggest that if Shepherds are doing Deacon tasks, they may be, by default, neglecting the spiritual work of God: comfort and consolation and spiritual guidance of the congregation, prayer, and ministry of the word. If a Shepherd feels that doing deacon-type work is his calling, he might consider becoming a Deacon.

*<https://occg.institute/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/6.8-CHURCH-ORGANIZATION.pdf>



Instruction in godliness: God instructed His children to commit themselves wholeheartedly to His words. “Teach them [His principles] to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” (Deut. 11:18, 19 NLT) This includes teaching children to obey their parents. Obedience is the foundation for our relationship with our heavenly Father.

A daily dose of discipline: When we love our children, we will discipline them. Discipline, of which punishment is one part, means providing instruction and guidance, and correction when necessary, until the child develops self discipline. “Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.” (Proverbs 13:24 NLT) How does God handle this as a parent? “For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child.” (Heb. 12:6f NLT)

The goal of a parent: God has such high aspirations for His children. He asks that we be holy as He is holy, love as He loves and grow in knowledge and wisdom. A godly earthly parent wants us to develop our skills so we can serve others. It will take a lifetime to become everything our parent, God, wants us to be. Make it your goal to, “Find out what pleases the Lord.” (Eph. 5:10 NIV)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

Try this as a woodworking project.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - GOODNESS P. 2

Generosity is one major part of goodness. It is unselfish and expresses itself through sharing. It extends to family and friends, strangers, and particularly those in need, and is offered not only as money, food and clothing, but also as time shared and assistance provided. In one's life; this is often described as sharing your time, talent and treasure.

Jesus is our best example of what generosity looks like. While Jesus didn't have much money, He was the most generous person who ever lived. Jesus listened, He healed, He taught, He led others and the He gave His life for all mankind.

So how can we show the kind of generosity that Jesus did? When we live by the Fruit of the Spirit, everything we do is because we have the love of Jesus in us. Remember that everything that we own is first owned by God. So sure, give generously financially. But give your time to those who need someone to talk to. Make meals for those who are sick. Where you see a need, fill it. Most of all, be generous in sharing the Gospel, because that is the greatest need of all.

DEEDS OF THE FLESH: PROGRESS

Webster's antonyms for goodness are badness, evil doing, immorality, iniquity, sin, villainy, and wickedness. Satan would not overtly offer these behaviors as desirable in his attempts to draw people away from Godly goodness. Rather, he might suggest to you is that being good, being generous, consumes too much of your resources, both time and money. And likewise, he whispers, those needing your generosity may not be deserving of your help; their station in life, or behavior, makes them undeserving to be a drain on your resources.

Satan might suggest instead that you spend all your time and money on making progress in

your personal endeavors, postponing help for those you may consider to be undeserving; you will reach your goals faster and will accomplish more. He even suggests to you that if you invest your resources in your personal life, you will be better equipped to help others in the future! Unfortunately, for most, once on that self-serving path, that future of generous giving never comes.

50 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR KIDS AFTER SCHOOL INSTEAD OF "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
- What did you do that was creative?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Was anyone in your class gone today?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
- Did you like your lunch?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- What made your teacher smile? What made her frown?
- If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
- What kind of person were you today?

The More Things Change, The More they Remain the Same

It received as the supernatural gift when each believer confesses their belief and becomes baptized as a follower of Jesus. Then, through study of Scripture, one may become knowledgeable and capable of gaining wisdom concerning the will of God and able to perceive the unlimited scope of God's power revealed in Jesus. As each one becomes increasingly aware of the presence of Holy Spirit, who now lives within, the fruitful evidence of this awareness is "Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5: 22-23)

The "wisdom of this age" is only worldly wisdom claimed by the worldly rulers "of this age" who "are coming to nothing". None of the rulers of "this age" (Roman and religious leaders) understood Jesus' message or possessed any insight to Godly wisdom because they refused to believe, or chose to ignore Him.

Throughout our world of today, worldly wisdom once again appears to be "the wisdom of choice" for many people who relish ambition for earthly power, wealth, fame and dominion over nations, and despise believers who question the consequences of turning away from God in order to "liberate" people. They pursue self-satisfaction, "progressive reforms" self-determination of biological construct and life-



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styles which glorify indulgences, and criminal activity without restraint – in total negligence and repudiation of previous societal norms.

Unfortunately, it would seem that a great many people of the world "remain the same" as Jesus encountered them during His mission "to seek and save the lost". However; **Jesus Christ**, The Light and Hope of the world, is **NOT a footnote in history**, because Jesus commissioned his disciples by announcing "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you to the very end of the age."

As Jesus prepared his Believers to witness the completion of His Mission. he told them they must not allow themselves to become discouraged by the intensity of evil they face in the world: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #130 - SPHINCTERS

Sphincters are so common in the human body and have such an obvious purpose, you might think it to be something which atheistic evolution could do.

A sphincter is a circular muscle that normally maintains constriction of a natural body passage or orifice and which relaxes as required for normal body functioning. Sphincters are found in many animals. There are over 60 types in the human body, some microscopically small, in particular the millions of precapillary sphincters. A precapillary sphincter is a band of contractile mural cells either classified as smooth muscle or pericytes that adjust blood flow into capillaries. The capillaries are found throughout all muscles, and are so small that a red or white blood cell barely passes through them. The opening and closing of the precapillary sphincters literally controls the blood pressure in the capillaries.

Sphincters relax at death, often releasing fluids and feces.

The graphic shows the lower esophageal sphincter between the Esophagus and the Stomach, and the Pyloric sphincter between the stomach and the Duodenum or start of the small intestine. These are two which you never know exist, unless you have a problem.

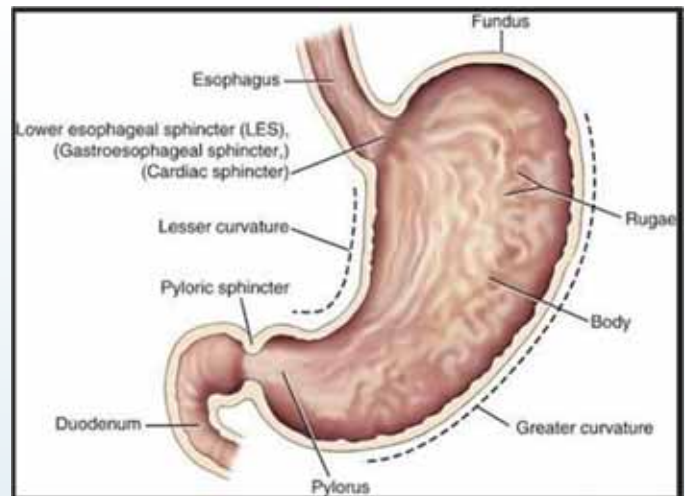
A sphincter you will be more familiar with is the urinary sphincter. The urinary sphincter is a muscle that surrounds your urethra. The sphincter squeezes the urethra to keep urine in the bladder until it is time to urinate. When it is time to urinate and you are in an acceptable location, it relaxes to allow the urine to flow. You basically control your bladder sphincter, even though you have no idea how you do it.

Your mouth would be another sphincter valve you are familiar with, but one you have conscious control over.

But why would we suggest something so com-

mon would be impossible for atheistic evolution to do? First it requires the circular design of a muscle placed in an appropriate location. Secondly, it requires controlling nerves to be in place to, under normal circumstances, keep the sphincter valve closed and then to relax it at appropriate times. Third, it requires computer programming-type logic to tell the sphincter valve when to open and when to close. Each of these three requirements are coded into the DNA of the sperm and egg at conception. Atheistic evolution simply has no means to program DNA to make this happen, and it is naïve to suggest that it does.

The complex design of this common building block of life certainly teaches the need for an Intelligent Designer.



Graphic from clinicalgate.com/digestive-system/

Benton F. Baugh

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TENT CARDS



Tent cards are business card size and are folded into a small tent. You can hand them to someone or when you go to lunch, you can simply leave it on the table. The purpose is to try to start a discussion, or at least to give an invitation.

They can provide a message like these samples or can say anything you like.

Imagine you equip your members with 1000 of these and consider the impact it can have on your congregation.

You can get products like these at your local printer or online by searching for tent cards.

If you like contact us at info@occg.institute and we will assist you.



OUTSIDE OF CARD



INSIDE OF CARD

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRI-FOLDS

Personalized personal evangelism tri-folds are a tool which has proven to be an effective way to begin conversations similarly to the Tent Cards discussed last month.

These cards not only tell the basics about Churches of Christ, but also can give location details and service times about your specific congregation. They can be edited to give whatever information you think to be beneficial for you're area and circumstance.

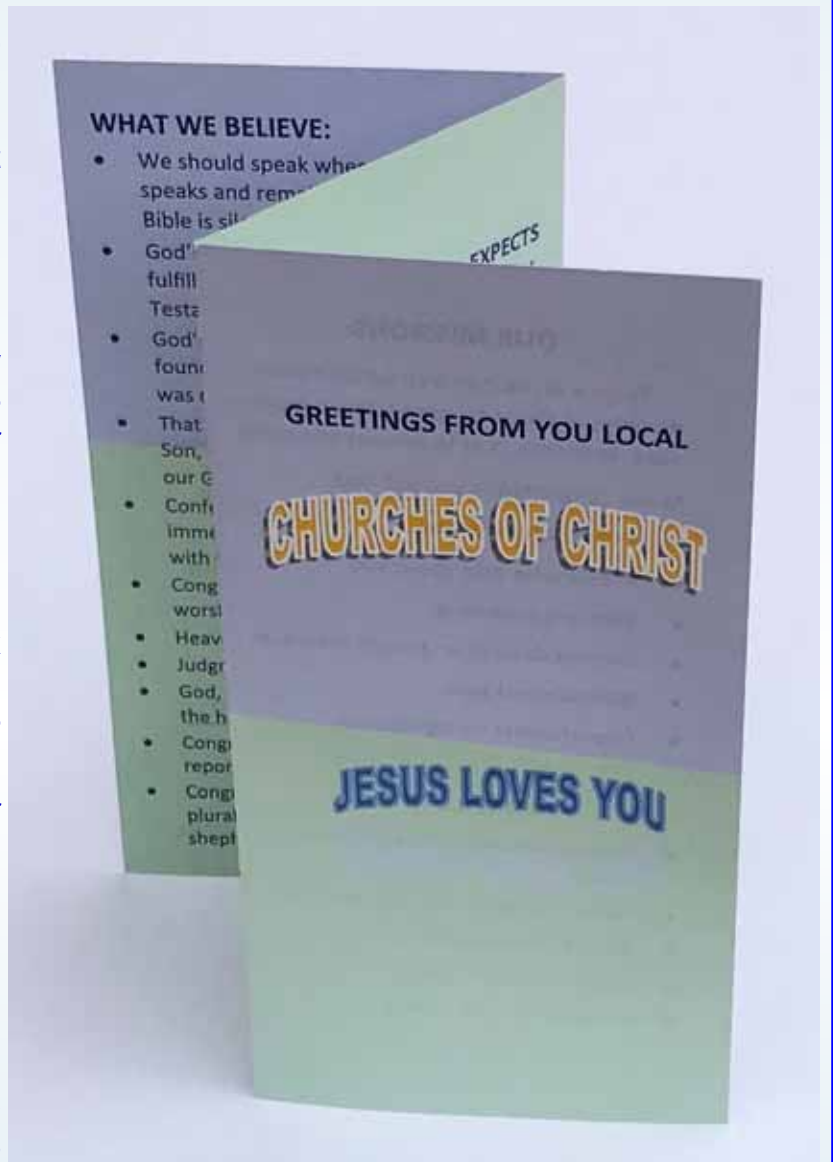
Cards similar to this can be obtained from a number of printers, with Uprint.com being the one we have used. In the example shown we used a 5.5" x 8.5" Z-Fold printed on the outside and inside in full color. It is found under brochures.

The following will give the base costs for the tri-folds, with shipping being extra.

100	\$37.19	\$0.38 ea.
250	\$106.31	\$0.43 ea.
1000	\$238.49	\$0.24 ea.
10000	\$1,074.46	\$0.11 ea.

You can go online and design any style tri-fold or other brochure you prefer. As an alternative, if you like the wording and style on the example shown, we will have them printed for you.

The following page shows the wording for Luther Community Church of Christ. If you want us to coordinate them for you, print the next page, mark it up as you like, and email it to bbaugh@occg.institute. Our part of the process will be a free service. You will pay only for Uprint's printing costs.



If you deal with them directly, they will send a free sample of your printing. As we have dealt with them before, they will not send us a free sample for you. We will send you a free sample which looks like the following page before anything is printed.

Hopefully this will be a method which will be of assistance to some congregations. If you have another idea we can publish in a future issue,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRI-FOLDS - THE GOLDEN RULE

This tract is a study in how to say enough to pique someone's interest without offending them. We sometimes try to hard at not offending people that we water our messages down to platitudes. This tract promotes actually saying something and the Wednesday Service Night concept. The Wednesday Service Night concept is generally that most members do not need to sit in class #3001 but rather that it is time to start being of service.

The Golden Rule looks at it from the opposite side from how we normally look at it.

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Come find your role with us.



THE
GOLDEN
RULE

Jesus said in his golden rule: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12

This means that if you come to a clarity about a truth impacting your salvation in Heaven with Jesus, I would hope you to tell me about it.

I have come to such a clarity about our salvation in Heaven with Jesus, and I understand I should tell you about it.



I believe God is the creator and sustainer of the universe.

I believe God's word for us is communicated to us in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

I believe only the New Testament is applicable to us today as the Old Testament is completed (Gal. 3:23-25)



I believe that we are not authorized to add to or take away from what the New Testament says (Rev.22:18-19)

In other words, all revelation from God to us was given in the first century.

I understand that if the Bible teaches something and you teach something else, you are in rebellion to God's word.

Whereas we would not question anyone's sincerity:

For the past 1500 years the Catholic church has been adding to and taking away from the teachings of the Bible by their rulings.



Protestant denominations are distinguished by the Catholic doctrines they **protested** and the Catholic doctrines they follow.

Most **independent community churches** at the least abandon the congregation organization as given in Jesus' New Testament. What they actually teach otherwise is sometimes hard to determine.

The **Churches of Christ** make every effort to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

TITLW

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15.. *Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.*

16. *Take a deep breath It calms the mind.*

Source unknown.

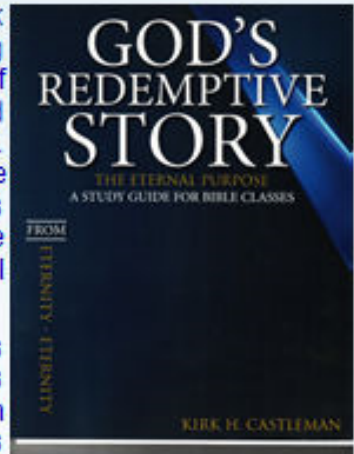
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A 13 lesson book written by a long time Church of Christ minister and servant of Jesus. Intended for Bible Class studies, this book can also be used for personal evangelism.



Most Bible class study books on this subject begin with Genesis 3. This study however, lays

the foundation by beginning with a basic study-outline of Biblical History, which is sorely lacking among many Christians today. Then after laying this foundation, it seeks to present a "Synthesis of Scripture" by asserting that the theme of all the Bible is Jesus, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection! The Eternal Purpose of God for Redemption is then presented with an in-depth study of Ephesians 1, and other New Testament passages which describe God's redemptive plan.

It is not until the fourth lesson that God's Eternal Purpose in Genesis 3 is presented. Then other Promises, Pictures, Prophecy, and Prep-

"AN EXCITING STUDY OF GOD'S POWER AND REVELATION IN HUMAN HISTORY"

aration, are fully described. This study includes a description of the Davidic Covenant, as well as a helpful approach to Old Testament Prophecy.

This guide is helpful for all Christians, but especially new Christians who need an understanding of God's eternal desire for all the world!

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I'm good at dieting any time except right now.

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