

# Pastoral Theology in the Pastoral Epistles

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1

## My definition of Pastoral Theology

Pastoral theology is the discipline involving investigative and reflective analysis of the biblical and theological teachings on the Pastor's identity, his personal life, office and functions and their implications for contemporary ministerial praxes

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2

## Features of Biblically Grounded Pastoral Theology

### 1. Source/Standard:

- Pastoral Theology that is derived from the Bible as against those based on largely psychological or sociological construct

### 2. Hermeneutical Methodology:

- Collation of biblical theological data, their analysis, reflections on their meanings and construction of robust theory to inform the discipline

### 3. Scope:

- Exhaustive intertwining scope of Pastoral Ministry, namely, Pastoral Identity, Personal Life, Office, and Functions

### 4. Praxes:

- Minister's Praxes must be informed by robust theory but the theory must be sound and biblically grounded

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## Scope of Pastoral Theology

### 1. Pastoral Identity

- Pastor's vision of themselves or habitus
- Pastoral habitus as projected by the bible
- Discerning and rejecting social non-biblical habitus
- Cultivating and maintaining biblical pastoral habitus

### 2. Personal Life

- Pastor as a disciple of Christ
- Pastor's relationship with the Trinitarian God
- Pastor's spiritual formation
- Pastor's home life
- Pastor's formal and informal training

### 3. Pastoral Office

- Pastor as a Church worker
- Pastor's relationship with other leaders in church
- Pastor as an administrator of God's people

### 4. Pastoral Functions

- Pastoral functions at Church Worship
- Pastoral functions at other Church gatherings
- Pastoral functions with discipling Church members
- Pastor's functions with caring or Church members in need

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## Pastoral Habitus

The way a person perceives themselves as “a pastor” in such a way as to determine their sense of identity and dispositions and the manner in which they fulfil their pastoral office and functions

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## Rationale for Studying Pastoral Theology in Pastorals

1. The labelling of the texts as “Pastoral” underlines their indispensable link to the subject
2. The most concentrated focus on the personal life, office and functions of the Christian worker in the Bible
3. More than half of the language and concepts in Pastorals relate to the discipline of Pastoral theology
4. Clarity of instructions on the conduct of duties in the pastoral office
5. Concentration of theological ideas informing the spiritual and leadership formation of pastors

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## Topics to be covered

1. Contribution of Pastorals to a Biblical Theology of Ministry
2. Paul as a Christian Worker in the Pastoral Epistles
3. Duties of Pastoral Ministry in the Pastorals
4. Pastor's Work Ethic
5. Theology of Mentorship in the Pastorals

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## Learning Outcomes

1. Employ examples from the Pastoral Epistles to show their contribution to a biblical theology of pastoral ministry
2. Critically evaluate the significance of Paul's self-portrayals as Christian worker in the Pastoral Epistles for your own ministry
3. Employ the Pastoral Epistles to write a strategic paper setting out the pastoral theology which should guide your church's leadership team.
4. Employ exegetical analyses of 2 Tim 2:14-16; Tit 2:7-8 and 2 Tim 3:17-4:5 to summarize their contributions to understanding the pastor's public duties
5. Employ appropriate examples to write a strategy paper for mentorship of future leaders of your congregation

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Rev Dr Craig Barnes  
President of Princeton Theological Seminary

“the hardest thing about being a pastor today is simply this: “confusion about what it means to be the pastor.”

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## A Definition of Pastoral Identity

The composite self-concept of the pastor in relation to their callings as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, as Spirit empowered servants of His Church and as workers on behalf of God’s kingdom and which together therefore shape how they fulfil their pastoral office and functions

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## Elements of Pastoral Identity

- Identity as disciple in Jesus
- Sense of divine Call
- Spiritual Gifts for ministry
- Personal Passion for ministry
- Natural & fluctuating personality or temperament
- Fluctuating Family roles
- Leadership tradition of the Church (denomination)
- Socio-cultural Expectations

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## Pastoral Habitus [persona]

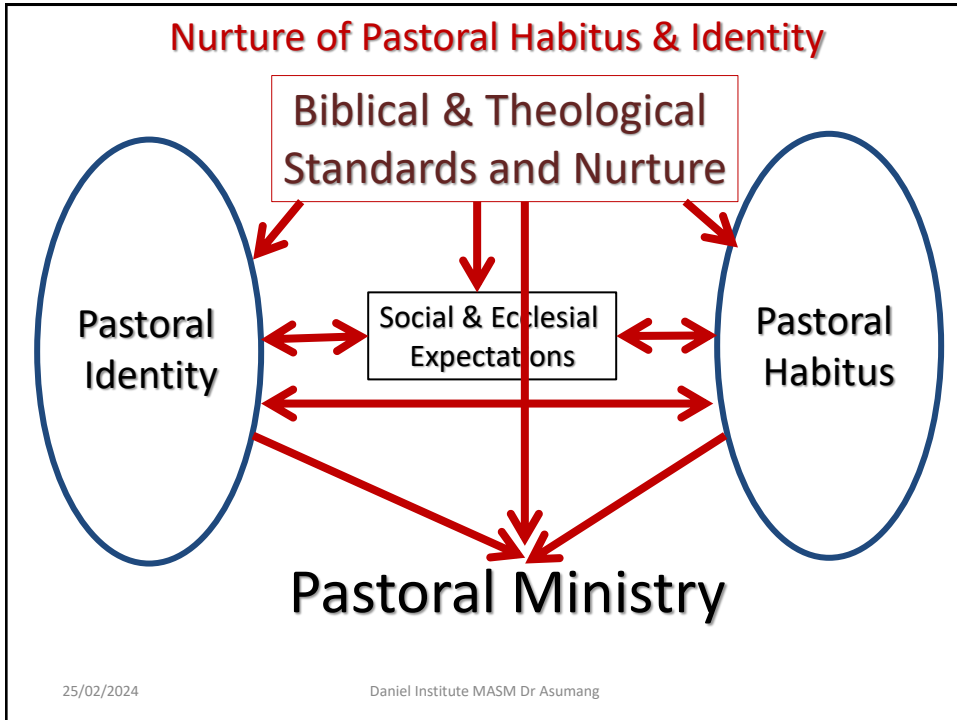
The idealized way, often significantly influenced by “the pastoral profession”, by which a person perceives themselves as “a pastor” in such a way as to impact their sense of pastoral identity and dispositions and the manner in which they fulfil their pastoral office and functions

Pastoral habitus significantly shapes pastoral habits of ministry

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13

**What are the potential dangers of cultivating unrealistic or unbiblical pastoral habitus in Ghana?**

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## Potential dangers of Unbiblical Habitus

- May become the idol the pastor worships
- Christ and His word may become lost
- Loss of focus on the calling and the goal of ministry
- Sense of failure and constant need to be affirmed by people instead of Christ
- Pride and lack of self-aware limitations
- Inauthenticity

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## Paul & Timothy as Pastors in 1 Thess 2:4-12

- **Accountability to God**
  - Approved by God
  - Seeking to please God
- **Self Sacrifice**
  - Did not insist on apostolic authority
  - Loving self-giving serve
- **Avoidance of men-pleasing**
  - sought to please God alone
- **Content with resources**
  - not greedy
- **Metaphors to describe pastoral habitus**
  - Young children
  - Nursing mother
  - Brothers and sisters
  - Fathers
  - Labourers
- **Holy personal lives**
  - Blameless
- **Multiple ministries**
  - Comforted, encouraged, urging
- **"Bi-vocational" Ministry**
  - Preached and worked

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## **Paul's Letters as the Spirit's Vehicle for shaping Pastoral Identity & Habitus**

Paul's letters constitute very rich resource for the cultivation, correction and nurturing of biblical, Christ honouring, healthy and effective Pastoral Identity and Habitus

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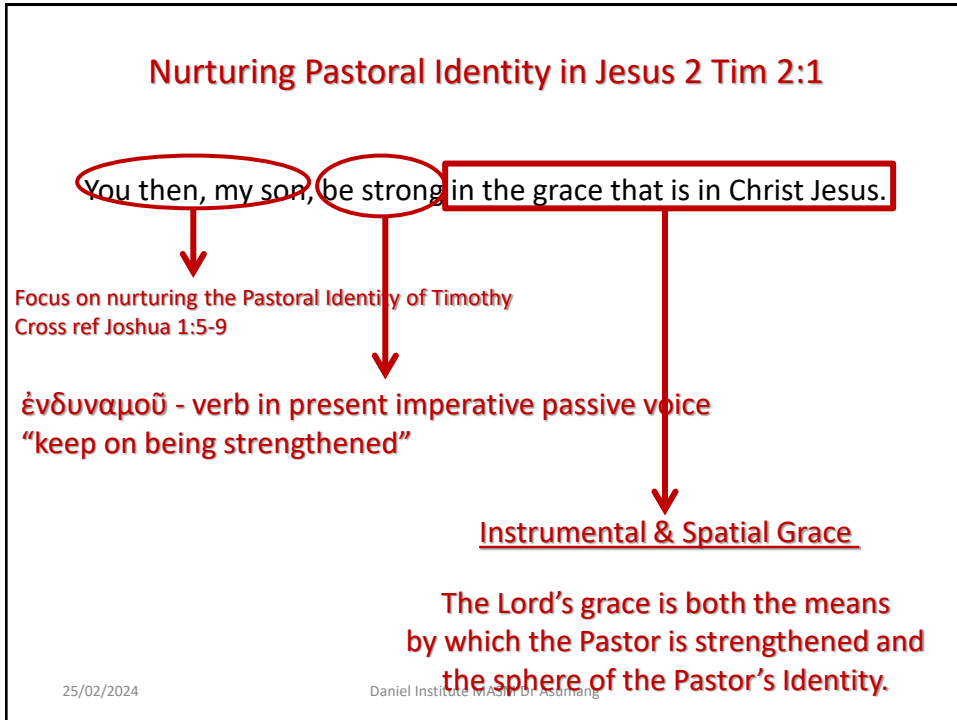
## **How the Pastoral Epistles Project & Nurture Pastoral Identity & Habitus**

1. Jesus as Sphere of Existence, Exemplar and Enabler of the Pastor
2. Paul's self-portrayal as pastor
3. Paul's Explicit description of the Pastoral ministry
4. Paul's use of Metaphorical Images for the Pastor

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19

The Pastor’s Pastoral life and Identity cannot exist except it is always plugged into and immersed in the grace that is in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## Paul's Portrait of himself as Pastor in Pastorals

Scope	Example	Passages
<b>Identity</b>	Under God's command	1 Tim 1:1
	Holy calling	2 Tim 1:9-10
	Entrusted with precious deposit	1 Tim 1:11
	Appointed by God	1 Tim 1:12-14; 2:7
	Drink offering	2 Tim 4:6
<b>Personal Life</b>	God whom I serve	Tit 1:3
	I suffer and endure	2 Tim 1:8-12; 2:3, 9; 2:10; 4:6
<b>Office</b>	Modelling to co-workers; e.g., "fight good fight", "suffering", "teaching"	1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7; 2 Tim 4:5; 3:10-11
	Recalling memories with colleague	2 Tim 1:4-5
	Instructions to co-workers	
<b>Functions</b>	Toil and strive: energetic service	1 Tim 4:10
	Preaching	Tit 1:3
	Excommunication of heretics	1 Tim 1:20

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## Images of the Pastor in the Pastorals

Image	Passage
Soldier	2 Tim 2:3
Household Manager	Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 3:4-5
Hard-working Farmer	2 Tim 2:6
Unashamed worker	2 Tim 2:15
Honourable Vessel	2 Tim 2:20-21
Lord's servant	2 Tim 2:24
God's Steward	Tit 1:7 1 Tim 6:20
Man of God	1 Tim 6:11
Fighter	1 Tim 6:12a
?Athlete	1 Tim 6:12b
Priest	2 Tim 1:6-7 [cf., Lev 9:23-24]
Doctor applying correct medicine	2 Tim 4:2

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## Variegated “Ministry” in the Old Testament

- **Deliverer Ministry Model**
  - Moses, Joshua & the Judges: combinations of callings including political, military and spiritual leadership
- **Priestly Ministry Model**
  - Aaron and Levitical priesthood as mediators
- **Kingship Ministry Model**
  - David: combinations of military, administration, spiritual leadership and inspired writer
- **Sage Ministry Model**
  - Job & Solomon Philosophical reflections & inspired writing
- **Scribal/Administrator Model**
  - Nehemiah & Ezra: organization, reconstruction and inspired writing
- **Prophetic Ministry Model**
  - Prophets: Seers, Speaking, Writing, leadership prophets

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## Jesus & Pastoral Ministry

- Jesus teaches Pastoral Ministry by His examples and commands
  - **John 10:1-30**
    - “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me”
    - Jesus is Model Shepherd
  - **Mk 3:13-14**
    - He “called to him those whom he desired...he appointed twelve”
    - Jesus calls, equips, trains, instructs and commissions disciples
  - **Mk 10:43-45; (cf, Jn 13:1-17)**
    - “it shall not be so among you... the Son of Man came not to be served”
    - Ministry is sacrificial service patterned after Jesus
  - **John 21:15-17**
    - “do you love me...Feed my lambs”
    - Ministry is expression of love for Jesus
  - **Matt 28:18-20**
    - “All authority...Go therefore and make disciples”
- Commissions and commands preaching, make disciples, baptize and teach

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## Functions of the Pastor in Pastoral Epistle

1. **Public ministry of the word**
  - E.g., 1 Tim 4:11; 6:2; 2 Tim 2:14-16; Tit 2:1
2. **Mentorship**
  - E.g., 2 Tim 2:2-3; 3:10-15; Tit 2:6-8
3. **Public discipline**
  - E.g., 1 Tim 1:18-20; 5:19-22;
4. **Liturgical functions**
  - E.g., 1 Tim 2:1-3; 5:21-22
5. **Pastoral care of vulnerable groups**
  - E.g., 1 Tim 5:3-16

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## Pastoral related functions of Overseers & Deacons

- **Overseer**
  - able to teach (1 Tim 3:2)
  - care for God's church (1 Tim 3:5)
  - God's steward (Tit 1:7)
  - able to give instruction...rebuke those who contradict it (Tit 1:9)
- **Elders**
  - Rule (1 Tim 5:17a)
  - labour in preaching and teaching (1 Tim 5:17b)
- **Deacon**
  - hold the mystery of the faith (1 Tim 3:9)
  - Serve (1 Tim 3:10, 13)

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## Pastoral Functions Related to Worship

- Preaching and Teaching
- Laying on of hands
  - Commissioning or ordaining
  - Others
- Public Discipline
  - Sinning elder (1 Tim 5:19-21)
  - Rebuke and warning divisive person
  - Excommunicating apostate/heretic
- Leading Service
  - Reading of Scripture
  - Prayer (1 Tim 2:1-5)
- Baptism & Communion not explicitly mentioned

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## Public Word Ministry of Pastor in 2 Tim 3:17-4:5

- Pastoral Identity and Habitus
  - “Man of God”
- Scripture and Word ministry (cf., 3:14-15)
  - its study and meditation equips the minister
- Eschatological Urgency and Word Ministry
  - Fivefold Witness of the charge - the presence of God, of Christ Jesus, the judgement, the second coming, and the kingdom
- Five Varieties of Word Ministry
  - Preach the word
  - Be ready in season out of season – Be on standby always
  - Reprove or convict
  - Rebuke or admonish
  - Exhort or encourage
- Be prepared for unreceptive listeners
  - People will not always listen to the truth
  - You will lose audience
  - You will be tempted to be distracted
- Persevere in the Word
  - Keep doing it right
  - Keep your head
  - Endure hardships and dry times in ministry
- Be dutiful
  - Be faithful to the call of evangelism
  - Serve Jesus faithfully

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## Public Pastoral Ministry in 2 Tim 2:14-16

Don't get tired of repetitions

Be firm when needed

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

Exert yourself  
with diligence

ὀρθοτομοῦντα

accurately sculpturing or paving a path  
(cf., Prov 11:5)

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## 2. DEFINITION OF MENTORSHIP

Mentorship is the interrelationship between mentor and mentee that are more experienced or more knowledgeable person and less experienced or less knowledgeable person, respectively; involving knowledge and experience transformation, role model.



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## Paul as Mentor in the Pastoral Epistles

- Coworkers as “son” (1 Tim 1:2, 18; 2 Tim 2:1; Tit 1:4)
- Recall of past connections (2 Tim 1:4-6)
- Advice Timothy about his health (1 Tim. 5:23)
- Appreciation of his young age (1 Tim. 4:12)
- Comrades Language 2 Tim 1:2-7
- Fellow soldiers’ language (1 Tim 6:12 cf., 2 Tim 4:7)
- Exemplification 1 Tim 1; 2 Tim 3:10-11; 2 Tim 2:3)

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## Intentional Mentoring Successors in 2 Tim 2:2-3

### Faithful orthodoxy demands faithful mentorship

And the things you <sup>Trust is key</sup> have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Clearly defined goal

Mentors beget mentors

### Intentional procedure for mentoring future successors of Timothy’s ministry

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## “Unintended Mentorship” Titus 2:7-8

In everything set them **an example by doing what is good.** In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because **they have nothing bad to say about us.**

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33

## Mutual Mentorship between believers (Tit 2:3-4)

Mentors beget mentors

ἱεροπρεπεῖς = holy priestesses

Likewise, **teach** the older women **to be reverent** in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but **to teach what is good.** Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children

**The pastor must not just mentor others but also foster a mentoring culture in the church**

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## The Pastor & the Spirit in the Pastoral Epistles

Passage	Theological Role	Implications
2 Tim 1:6-8	Discipleship and Ministry	Keep flame of power & boldness in ministry burning
2 Tim 1:14	Indwelling Spirit: Guardian of the "deposit" of the truth	The Spirit protects from heresy
1 Tim 1:18*	Pneumatological roots of Ministry	Spirit calls and equips for warfare against heresy
1 Tim 4:14*	Charismatic nature of Ministry	

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### 2 Tim 1:6-8

Timothy's abiding  
faith and calling

Circumlocution for the  
Spirit's Presence and Work

For this reason I remind you to run into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

Δειλιάς  
cowardice in military settings

Αάναζωπυρεῖν - present infinitive active verb  
"keep the fire burning"

The gift and fruit of the Spirit  
Source of Power and Courage in the  
spiritual battle of ministry

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## Lev 6:12

**“The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it.”**

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37

## Summary 1

1. Employ examples from the Pastoral Epistles to show their contribution to a biblical theology of pastoral ministry
  - Covers all four scopes
  - Paul, the co-workers and the leaders all share pastoral work
2. Critically evaluate the significance of Paul’s self-portrayals as Christian worker in the Pastoral Epistles for your own ministry
  - Covered all four elements
  - His pastoral concern for co workers
3. Employ the Pastoral Epistles to write a strategic paper setting out the pastoral theology which should guide your church’s leadership team.
  - The Scope of Pastoral Theology as skeleton

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## Summary 2

4. **Employ exegetical analyses of 2 Tim 2:14-16; Tit 2:7-8 and 2 Tim 3:17-4:5 to summarize their contributions to understanding the pastor's public duties**
  - Public duty of preaching and teaching
  - One on one duty of warning and encouraging
  
5. **Employ appropriate examples to write a strategy paper for mentorship of future leaders of your congregation**
  - Mentorship defined and exemplified in Paul
  - Mentorship theology in 2 Tim 2

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39

## Questions?

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