

Contents

Foreword by Matt McCullough / 11

Introduction / 13

Abbreviations / 15

Part 1: Foundational Considerations

1. What Is a Pastor? / 19
2. What Is Meant by Pastoral Ministry? / 27
3. What Essential Qualities Must Be Present in a Christian Pastor? / 37
4. How Does Jesus's Life and Ministry Mark the Pastor? / 45
5. Why Is Pastoral Plurality Better for the Church's Health Than Single Pastors? / 51

Part 2: Pastoral Development and Health

6. Can Pastors Remain Spiritually Healthy throughout Their Ministries? / 61
7. How Can a Pastor Care for His Spiritual Life? / 67
8. How Can Pastors Strengthen Their Marriages? / 75
9. How Can Pastors Shepherd Their Families? / 83
10. Do Pastors Need Pastoring? / 91
11. How Can Pastors Deal with Discouragements in Pastoral Ministry? / 97
12. How Do Pastors Endure in Their Ministries? / 103
13. How Do Intra-Pastoral Connections Strengthen Patient Endurance? / 111

Part 3: Pastoral Practices

14. What Is the Biblical Aim of Pastoral Ministry? / 119
15. What Should the First Year of Pastoring Look Like? / 127
16. How Should the Practice of Not "Crushing a Bruised Reed" Shape Ministry? / 133
17. What Are Some Dangers to Avoid in Pastoral Ministry? / 139
18. How Should Pastors Handle Opposition? / 147
19. How Does the Pastor Lead an Elders' Meeting? / 153
20. How Can Pastors Mentor Future Pastors and Leaders? / 161

Part 4: Pastoral Preaching

21. What Distinguishes Pastoral Preaching from Simply Preaching? / 169
22. What Should Pastors Teach Their Congregations? / 175
23. How Does a Pastor Prepare a Pastoral Exposition? / 183
24. Why Should Pastors Preach through Books of the Bible? / 191

- 25. How Should a Pastor Decide Which Book to Preach to His Congregation? / 199
- 26. How Should a Pastor Lead the Congregation in Worship? / 207
- 27. How Should a Pastor Conduct Funerals? / 217
- 28. How Should a Pastor Conduct Marriage Ceremonies? / 223

Part 5: The Church and Pastoral Ministry

- 29. What Is the Church? / 233
- 30. What Kind of Authority Does Scripture Give to Pastors of Local Churches? / 243
- 31. How Is Good Pastoral Ministry Tied Directly to Healthy Ecclesiology? / 251
- 32. How Long Should a Pastor Wait to Make Changes in the Church's Ministry? / 259
- 33. How Should a Pastor Lead the Congregation in Practicing Church Discipline? / 267
- 34. How Should a Pastor Lead in Changing Polity and Leadership Structure? / 275
- 35. Why Should Pastors Lead in Reforming a Church's Membership Practices? / 283
- 36. How Can Pastors Recognize the Right Pace of Church Revitalization? / 291
- 37. How Should Pastors Help Their Congregations Face Suffering? / 299
- 38. How Should Pastors Lead the Church to Engage in International Missions? / 305
- 39. How Does a Pastor Know When to End Ministry and Transition to Another? / 311
- 40. Why Should Pastors Aim for Long Pastorates? / 317

Selected Bibliography / 323

Scripture Index / 327