

Allen McClure
Philosophy of Ministry

There is nothing more important in my life than to have an ongoing, deep, and loving relationship with God. It is my soul's strongest desire to know Him in a most intimate way and am so thankful He demonstrated His love for me by pursuing me in the Person of Jesus Christ which resulted in my surrender to Him in Salvation. My desire to love Him results in my pursuit of obeying Him, even with my many failures. From this, God must come first in all relationships and when I love God most, I am able to love others (spouse, family, co-workers, church family, neighbors, and even the lost) best.

When I came to Christ on the evening of December 29, 1994, I had nothing whatsoever to offer Him except my surrender as much as I could understand that. When I surrendered, He was faithful and took me just as I was and has remained faithful for almost 28 years as I have grown in Him. I am so thankful for the loving support of my wife and the blessing of 3 children where I do my best to serve them as a husband, father, and shepherd. I am also thankful that He called me from the path I had set before my eyes to one I would not have chosen; that of pastoral ministry. For everything I have done or do, He receives all the glory.

Therefore, as a man who has been called by God to serve as a minister of the Gospel, I affirm that I am most importantly a servant of people and dedicate my life to the spiritual growth of others. As such, I am a shepherd who takes care of His sheep. Additionally, I help those who need help, lead those who are wandering back to Him, feed those who hunger for the Truth, and care for those who hurt. Finally, to those who do not know Him through Christ, I give my all to show them Christ. I do this with passion and intentionality.

As a local church pastor, I seek to know the flock and lead accordingly through a team approach. No one leader can assume all the responsibilities incumbent within a congregation. He has established various leaders (both men and women) to share in the care of the family. The Senior/Lead Pastor is a leader among leaders who are called to be humble, servant leaders who do all for the cause of Christ.

The Pastor is one who must commit all things to God in prayer and lead accordingly with a team that provides support and Godly accountability. A pastor must also be one who listens to wise counsel from those God has placed around him. He must be ever ready to prayerfully and passionately pour into others to achieve their God-assigned giftedness, so they do the same for others. The pastor is to be an example of one committed to God that others seek to emulate.

Day-to-day ethic:

God comes 1st:

In everything, He comes first.

Everything is evaluated by the Word:

The Word of God is our source of truth without any mixture of error in the original manuscripts and is complete and sufficient for all God intends. It also is wholly sufficient to point out errors in our lives, point us back to Christ when we have strayed, and encourage us as we grow in Him. It also guides us in relationships with others and in plain language, it should keep us humble as we are nothing without Christ.

Prayer:

Without going to God in prayer, we are operating out of our strength which is contrary to the expressed will of God. We go to Him for everything; thanks, forgiveness, counsel, wisdom, discernment, and deepening our relationship with Him.

Integrity and consistency of integrity:

We must do the right thing for the right reasons - all the time even when no one is looking. If a leader is without integrity, there is no loyalty with those he closely works with and alongside and seeks to lead. Integrity is required in the pastor's prayer life, study, preparation, sermon delivery, listening, caring for, checking in on, being available, and pouring into the elders, staff, deacons, leaders, congregation, and in reaching the community.

Heart for people:

A pastor must have a heart of conviction to care for everyone; the hurting, happy, helpless, curious, troubled, questioning, in crisis, wandering, and the seeking. He must treat everyone equally in that each person was created in the image of God and is someone for whom Christ deemed them worthy to die for. If a pastor (or anyone) realizes this, no one is beneath us in ministry or life.

Team approach:

In order to be a good leader, one must first have demonstrated that they are a good follower. When working with a team under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit, the Pastor may not always be the one who stands out front. There are instances where someone is more capable than he to lead in a certain area of ministry. This does not absolve the pastor but requires the pastor to have prayed for, helped train, encourage, and accompany the functional leader in whatever and wherever the Lord is leading. Therefore, after preparation, the pastor may be one who follows another leader in an area they would be more gifted at with the pastor there to show support but always ready to lead out if needed. An example could be a cross-cultural ministry where one individual may be more gifted due to language and/or cultural understanding.

In closing:

I believe with all my heart that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone as revealed by Scripture alone all for the glory of God alone. From this, I always (not perfectly) seek one's highest good which is their relationship with Christ, or prayerfully point them in that direction.

I want to see the Believer grow and the lost to come to Salvation.