

East Mississippi Baptist State Convention

held with



Scott County District Association
Charles Bell, Moderator

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Convention President***

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John 10:14

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

1. Know your sheep.
2. Allow your sheep to know you!
3. Spend time with the fold.
4. Know the difference between the authentic and knockoffs, between sheep and goats and wolves! Sheep are followers. Goats are headbutters and rebellious. Wolves are devourers and destroyers. All three come to your church every Sunday dressed like sheep....
5. Every church has the Kansas City Chiefs, the New Orleans Saints and Dallas Cowboys in attendance every Sunday. The only problem is they are all wearing the same uniform. The shepherd has to be able discover and differentiate who is on what team.
6. You will know them by their fruits. Be as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove.
7. Wheat and Tares.
8. The patience of patients!

What do shepherds do for their sheep?

- a. He leads them to green pastures and still waters
- b. He protects them from the wildness of this world.
- c. He guards them at night, weather in the open field or in the sheepfold.
- d. He counts them as they come in and as they go out!

What does the sheep do for the shepherd?

- a. Sheep builds a relationship with the shepherd.
- b. Sheep obeys the shepherd's voice.
- c. Sheep provides milk and meat and warmth.
- d. Sheep allow themselves to be sheared.

Are You a Shepherd or a Sheepherder?

Shepherd or Sheepherder - What Kind of Leader Are You?

Sheepherders drive large groups of sheep from behind the flock.

Shepherds lead a manageable number of sheep from the front of the flock.

Sheepherders make the sheep to move forward out of fear of the sheepherder and the dogs behind them. Shepherds move forward at the head of the flock and the sheep follow because they know and trust the shepherd.

Sheepherders react to dangers and obstacles encountered along the way. Shepherds proactively show the sheep how to avoid dangers and obstacles.

Sheepherders expect a certain number of sheep to get lost along the way. Acceptable loss margins are often as high as 30%. Shepherds know each sheep and work to make sure not a single one is lost. There is NO acceptable loss margin for a shepherd.

Sheepherders are hired hands with no sense of ownership or responsibility for the long-term welfare of the flock. Shepherds feel that sheep are "part of the family" and assume the responsibility to care for their long-term welfare.

Sheepherders force the sheep to comply. Shepherds encourage the sheep to follow and explore.

Sheepherders may abandon the sheep when predators or other dangers present themselves. Shepherds stay with and protect the sheep, even if at their own peril.

Sheepherders rely on intimidation and pain to keep the sheep going in the right direction. Shepherds rely on a relationship of trust and care with the sheep that is built over time.

Shepherders keep the flock moving when one sheep strays or they kick straying sheep back to the flock. Shepherds stop and find each missing sheep and bring it back to the flock, often carrying the sheep who strayed.

Shepherders rely on the sheep to care for the lambs and accept that some will not survive due to their inherent vulnerability to predators and disease. Shepherds are aware of the birth of each lamb and take special care of each one, recognizing that they need more protection and guidance.

Shepherders often force sheep into dangerous terrain that they can't see from the back of the flock. Shepherds recognize danger from the front of the flock and lead the sheep in the safest path.

Shepherders prevent the sheep from going the way he/she doesn't want the sheep to go. Shepherds lead by showing the sheep the best path.

What About the Sheep?

Sheep led by shepherds nearly always produce higher quality wool and mutton than sheep led by sheepherders. This is thought to be due to shepherded sheep being trained to seek out the best pastures and water sources. "herded" sheep are usually more passively compliant, being trained to stay where they are - even if better pastures are close by.

Being Driven vs. Led has an effect on the social behaviors of the flock as a whole:

Driving (Sheepherding) the sheep results in dependence on being driven and repression of empathy among the sheep. Young driven sheep often don't play with one another. Older driven sheep often run and scatter in the face of danger, seeking only self-preservation.

Leading (Shepherding) the sheep results in sheep empowered to seek the best pastures and creates a sense of unity in the flock. Young shepherded sheep will often play with one another, and the grown sheep usually gather together in the face of danger, protecting the younger sheep inside the flock.