

LESSON 4 | PROTECTING THE FLOCK

Acts 20:28–29 (NLT) - *“So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock — his church, purchased with his own blood — over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. 29 I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock.”*

A SHEPHERD PROTECTS THE FLOCK BY:

1. PROTECTING THEM FROM _____.

1 John 4:1 (NLT): *“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.”*

2. PROTECTING THEM FROM _____.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT): *“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”*

3. PROTECTING THEM FROM _____.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (NLT): “But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don’t even eat with such people.”

4. PROTECTING THEM FROM THE _____.

1 Peter 5:8–9 (NLT): “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.”

5. PROTECTING BY _____.

Jeremiah 3:15 (NLT): “And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.”

PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR PASTORS

_____.
Regularly address what the Bible says about core beliefs.

_____.
Don't let division grow unchecked.

_____.
For leaders and members alike.

_____.
Cover them in spiritual protection daily.

_____.
Show that you are willing to stand for truth, even when it's uncomfortable.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What threats to the flock are most common in your ministry context?
2. How do you recognize false teaching before it spreads?

The Shepherd Leader | Section 1: Leading Members

3. How can you protect your church from division without becoming controlling?
4. In what ways can you help your people recognize the enemy's attacks?
5. What boundaries need to be strengthened in your church right now?

ASSIGNMENT

This week, evaluate **one potential threat** to your congregation (false teaching, division, moral compromise, or spiritual apathy).

Develop a **practical plan** to address it through teaching, conversations, prayer, or leadership alignment.