

**Sermon #30**

**Follow the Lamb!**

God is amazing, awesome, immeasurable, complete!

He is all I need.

He feeds me and guides me.

He counsels and teaches—perfectly.

He knows just what I need and when I need it.

What man can be this to me?

What woman can show me the way?

God's heart is like a little lamb,  
the humblest and gentlest of creatures.

He leads me to become like Him—  
not arrogant or proud, deceitful or wicked—  
but full of mercy, grace and compassion.

In the Kingdom of God, all creatures bow down to and praise  
the gentle Lamb, even the mighty lion and soaring eagle!

The Lamb is the Shepherd of all who love God.

Since the Lamb is our perfect Shepherd,  
what is the purpose and place of human pastors and teachers?

Jesus did not emphasize church membership and involvement.

He did not set up an organization or tell His disciples to do it either.

Shockingly, Jesus lambasted the religious leaders, calling them  
“blind guides”, and exhorted His followers to “leave them.”

He called them “hypocrites” and a “brood of vipers.”

He did tell His followers to obey what they told them to do,  
because they knew the law.

But to that He added, “Do not do what they do,  
for they do not practice what they preach.”

Most of us have a great advantage over the people in those times, because we have direct access to the written word and can read it ourselves. We are not dependent upon the religious elite to hand it out to us on their terms. Thank God for this!

Jesus made it clear that we should do God's will even if our religious leaders don't. And He tells us to follow Christ, the Good Shepherd, not a human pastor or idol.

If church leaders and teachers try to lead us in any other direction except to Christ and the path of righteousness, we should leave them.

What then is the purpose of human apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers?

Paul says their purpose is "equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men. . . but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ-- . . ."

Ephesians 4:12-15

Here is what Jesus said to His followers:

"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi', for One is your teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone of earth your Father; for One is your Father, He who is in Heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 23:8-12

According to Jesus, we should look only to God and Christ, through the Spirit of Truth, for leadership and teaching.

God does send human apostles, pastors, teachers and evangelists to those who need someone to help them connect or re-connect with Him.

But when a person does return and connect personally to God, Christ Himself, through the Spirit of Truth, teaches, counsels, shepherds and fathers him.

If human pastors and teachers lead lost sheep to themselves instead of to God, and busy them doing church activities instead of seeking and following Christ, they are shutting them out of the Kingdom of God.

And, according to Jesus, church leaders and teachers who do this are vipers and hypocrites, and will be punished most severely.

Prostitutes and thieves are entering the Kingdom of God before the self-righteous hypocrites!

“I the Lord AM your Teacher and Guide, your Master and Father.

I know all; My Word is Truth.

I AM Lamb to those who love Me, but a lion to those who hate Me.

I lead and feed the gentle and humble;

I destroy and devour the proud and wicked.

Let Me lead and feed the lamb in you,

and let Me destroy your pride and lies.

This will bring you closer to Me.

I know what is good and I do it:

Listen to Me and follow Me.

Leave pride and ego behind, and let Me give you Myself.

Eat the bread of truth and drink the water of life.

I AM your Church and I AM your Pastor.

Put your hope, faith and trust in Me.”

Notes: