



APOSTLE PAUL'S PRINCIPLES AS A SHEPHERD-TEACHER IN CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: A LIBRARY REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Christian Religious Education Teachers are God's co-workers or an important part in carrying out the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus. Paul's principle as a teacher-shepherd is very important in his ministry as a Christian Religious Education teacher in schools. This research is included in the library research category. The researcher compared several reading sources, including the Bible, and concluded the principles of the Apostle Paul as a teacher and a shepherd. Based on the research results, it is concluded that there is a qualitative significance between Paul's principles as the Pastoral Teacher and the Christian Religious Education teacher at school.

Keywords: Teachers, Shepherds, Christian Religious Education, Education Principles

INTRODUCTION

The role of the teacher in learning activities is not only conveying knowledge but also playing various roles aimed at optimally developing students' potential (Van Leeuwen, A., & Janssen, 2019). On the other word, seeing from the understanding of a shepherd in Bible, a shepherd has a very important role, namely as shepherding (Resane, 2020). It is referred to as shepherding because this ministry has to care for the life of the congregation with all their heart so that they experience spiritual growth as planned by God. In the term caring, there is the nature of shepherding, namely "serving" and not "commanding" (Barker et al., 2020; Mark 10:45).

Hannam et al (2020) state that it is not enough for a Christian Religious Education teacher to only carry out his duties as a teacher but must be able to

carry out the role of a shepherd. A teacher or a shepherd is sent to produce fruit, nurturing, caring for, protecting, and caring for their sheep (Goforth, 2022). A shepherd knows God's heart through the word of God, then represents God in his words, namely teaching the Gospel. A pastor should be a teacher who teaches God's Word and Bible's truth. The Word of God is teaching (Barker et al., 2020; 2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, a pastor must prioritize teaching (Barker et al., 2020; 2 Timothy 2:24).

The New Testament testifies that the good shepherd has come in the Lord Jesus Christ (Barker et al., 2020; John 10:11). This good Shepherd has laid down His life for His sheep. The basis for the Great shepherd's shepherd's actions is His love for people and the world (Barker et al., 2020; John 3:16). Likewise, as a teacher of Christian Religious Education, he had a calling to serve. It is a vocation because not all Christians can carry out ministry

duties as Christian Religious Education teachers (Daud et al., 2021; Manullang et al., 2022).

RESEARCH METHOD

It is library research. Library research collects data by learning and understanding data closely related to the problem from theories, books, documents, etc (Cf. Tsueng et al., 2023). It involves different methods such as keyword searches, subject searches, citation searches, published bibliographies, people sources, and systematic browsing.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Review of Teacher

The definition of a teacher in the Oxford Dictionary is a person whose job is teaching, especially in a school¹. The teacher refers to his main task: educating, teaching, guiding, directing, training, assessing, and evaluating students (Simbolon, 2022). In general, teachers are educators in education, starting from the level of Early Childhood Education, elementary to secondary education. In this case, the teacher must have the formal qualifications to perform the role and the task.

As a Christian Religious Education teacher who wants to help students have the mind of Christ, they must first understand that the self-esteem and identity of Christ's people come from the Lord Jesus Christ, who created humans.

Suppose every Christian Religious Education teacher realizes teaching is a calling or service to equip students. This task can be carried out as a mandate from the Great teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Teacher Role

First, the teacher as an educator, and second, the teacher as a teacher. The teacher helps the participants to develop and to learn something they do not know yet, form competencies, and

understand the standard material being studied. Third, the teacher is a guide. Fourth, the teacher is an advisor. Fifth, the teacher is a model and role model. Sixth, the teacher is a researcher.

Paul had a duty as a teacher who taught the truth through God's Word to the congregation and his students. In Ephesians 5:19-20, Paul teaches the congregation to speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and shout to the Lord with all your heart and give thanks for everything in the name of the Lord (Barker et al., 2020).

Teacher Qualification

The Oxford Dictionary defines qualification as the expertise needed to carry out something or occupy a certain position². The existence of qualifications will encourage someone to have expertise and competency that must be developed. This expertise is as a subject teacher or as other educational administration.

According to Paek, S. H., & Sumners (2019), teacher creativity is as follows. (1) Creative is often described as critical thinking skills, lots of ideas, and ideas. (2) Creative people see the same thing but through a different way of thinking. (3) The ability to combine things that have never been combined before. (4) The ability to find or get new ideas and solutions. Thus, Christian Religious Education teachers must have creativity in teaching in class and outside the classroom, so learning will be more enjoyable.

Concept of Christian Religious Education Teacher in Christian Faith

We need to know two important things about God's will regarding teacher duties and calling. First, God calls us to be His people and love Him with all our personalities. In Peter 2:9, God wants us to glorify Him in or through what we do (Barker et al., 2020 ; Colossians 3:23; I Corinthians 10:31). Second, God has called us to be His co-workers from

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<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/teacher?q=teacher+>

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<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/qualification?q=qualification+>

the beginning. To carry out the duties and calling of co-workers that God has given us, we are also required to live and have views that are in tune with Christ's point of view (Barker et al., 2020; I Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5). Christians need to place themselves under the power and authority of Christ because He is their foundation and head (I Corinthians 3:11). Thinking after Christ's pattern is the lifestyle that God wants for us.

According to Moss (2019), Cooling (2020), and Toropova et al. (2021), several conditions must be met for a teacher. A teacher must have a spiritual experience. His heart must be enlightened and touched by the Holy Spirit. S/he has a true desire to share the Gospel of Christ to fellow human beings. Have sufficient knowledge about the Christian faith.

For this reason, it is necessary to educate and be trained before teaching others. It is necessary to know when faith grows in a person and develops in the whole life of a believer. Shows true loyalty to his church. Have an honest and self-sacrificing personality.

Christian Education

Duties, Functions, and Responsibilities of Christian Religious Education Teachers. According to Cooling (2020), Christian Religion Teachers, they must have duties and responsibilities towards their students, namely; (1) Become a Christian faith guide. He is the one who describes and explains the Christian belief because he has to convey the treasures of the past to the youth who will take the future. The teacher can take the "good news" treasure from the church treasury, then distribute it to His students.

(2) Become a shepherd for His disciples. He is responsible for their spiritual life. He is obliged to build and advance their spirituality. Become a guide and leader. He must not lead his students into Christian belief by force, but he must guide them gently and gently to the Savior of the world. Become an evangelist who is responsible for the surrender of every disciple to Jesus Christ.

The Professionalism of Christian Religious Education Teachers in the World of Education

The Oxford Dictionary defines the profession as a type of job that needs special training or skill³. It also means "Someone" who has special intelligence to do something and is accompanied by a special payment" is called a professional person.

Christian Religious Education Teachers are called to carry out their duties professionally because of the education. A teacher who guides his students means equipping them with moral values, knowledge, and skills to develop themselves to a higher level than their teacher. The Bible provides quite a lot of explanations about the task of educating (Cooling, 2020).

One of the qualities that a servant of God needs to develop is the "ability to teach." As Paul wrote to Timothy: "He must be able to teach, be patient, and be able to guide those who are rebellious with mildness..." (Barker et al., 2020; II Timothy 2:24-25).

A professional teacher knows what to do, why he does it, and what he does something for. Being a teacher is God's special calling for every Christian educator. He who calls, He also protects and accompanies, gives wisdom and authority without being authoritarian.

Shepherd concept

The biblical description of a shepherd is someone who looks after a flock of sheep. He takes care of the safety of his sheep, leads them to fresh grass, carries the weak, looks for the strays, and heals the wounded and sick. The task shows a very close relationship, meekness, skill, hard work, and love from a shepherd. He protects his sheep from all calamities, guides them through life's storms, bears all sorrow, suffering, pain, and searches for the lost and lost.

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<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/profession?q=profession>

Definition of the Shepherd

In the Oxford Dictionary, "shepherd" is a guardian or caretaker of living things. Besides that, it can also be interpreted as a guard for the safety of many people. In English, "shepherd" is derived from the word "sheep." But in ancient Hebrew, the word "shepherd" is not derived from the word "sheep" but from the word "to feed." The Hebrew word for "shepherd" is "ra'ah." This word is formed from the word "to feed." As a result, the shepherd became known as "the one who feeds."

The two functions of a shepherd's job described in the Bible are: caring for and protecting the flock of his flock. Shepherd in Hebrew: Ra'ah is called (173X), while in Greek, there are three words, namely: Poimēn (18X), meaning: Shepherd, Presbuteros (12X), is: Elder, and Episkopos (3X), is: Overseer.

So, a shepherd must look after and protect his sheep. If a congregation pastor cares for and protects the congregation he pastors, then the pastoral teacher, namely the Christian Religion Teacher teacher, also nurtures and protects his students.

The Role of the Shepherd

Seeing from the understanding of the shepherd, a shepherd has a very important role, namely as shepherding. It is referred to as shepherding because this ministry must care for the life of the congregation with all their heart so that they experience spiritual growth as planned by God. In the term caring, there is the nature of shepherding which is to "serve" and not "command" (Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 5: 2-4).

Qualifications of a Pastor (Barker et al., 2020, I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)

Qualifications of shepherds in their spiritual life according to Ball (2019) are as follows. A shepherd is without blemish (I Timothy 3:2), meaning without blemish in terms of character, behavior, speech, and mastering the tongue, Husband of one wife (I Timothy 3:2), Not polygamous, Not divorced (not a broken household), Not adulterer, Not sodomist (or

lesbian), Can exercise self-restraint (I Timothy 3:2); it means being able to refrain from extreme attitudes, Wise (I Timothy 3:2); act wisely, wisely and carefully, Politely (I Timothy 3:2); the shepherd deserves appreciation from others because of his good behavior, natural appearance, and adaptability, Likes to give a lift (I Timothy 3:2); the shepherd should love guests, give a guest, and keep the privacy of the family, competent to teach (I Timothy 3:2); pastors have the skills and abilities to explain the word of God, equip and train believers so they can participate in ministry in the church.

The example that Paul did, he trained Timothy, Titus, Philemon and gave them ministry assignments (discipleship), Not drinking (I Timothy 3:3); shepherds must not give themselves to alcoholics or in other forms of dependence, Not grumpy but kind (I Timothy 3:3); a shepherd should not tend to fight physically or argue, his attitude should be full of peace, Peace (I Timothy 3:2); let a shepherd be peaceful, Not a slave to money (I Timothy 3:3); because no one can love God and mother at the same time (I Timothy 6:6-11; Matthew 6:24), A good family head (I Timothy 3:4); the shepherd must be an example of being able to lead his own household according to Bible principles, Not a new convert (I Timothy 3:6); a pastor needs to be spiritually mature, and have personal experience in his Christian life.

A shepherd must have a good name (I Timothy 3:7); have a good reputation in society, Which children live a life of faith and are not accused of immorality (Titus 1:6); a shepherd must raise and educate his children to fear God and be a good example in the congregation, not arrogant (Titus 1:7); a shepherd must avoid being arrogant and unable to think of himself as a ruler over those he serves, Not hot-tempered (Titus 1:7); it is not natural for a shepherd to be quick-tempered and overflowing with anger and cannot control himself, is not greedy and loves good (Titus 1:8);

A shepherd must always focus on what is good, worthy, not on things that are improper or evil (Philippians 4:8), Just (Titus 1:8); a shepherd should be fair to all congregations (no discrimination), pious (Titus 1:8); have good morals, don't get lost in worldly things, Always hold on to the right words (Titus 1:9); hold fast to the word of God in order to

be able to teach true teaching and fight against false teachings by strengthening the knowledge of God's word to the congregation.

From the description above, it is clear that being a shepherd is not an easy task and service, but a task that requires seriousness and is a heavy responsibility.

Shepherd Teacher concept

According to Widjaya et al. (2021), the Pastoral teacher's lecture materials in Christian Religious Education, the definition of a shepherd teacher is a shepherd who performs teaching duties in his shepherding ministry, a teacher who practices shepherding duties in his ministry as a teaching teacher (Widjaya et al., 2021).

Paul's Principles in Duties and Responsibilities as a Shepherd Teacher

Paul strongly believed that his task and ministry as a pastoral teacher were a gift from God (I Timothy 1:12-14). Paul's belief can be seen through his letters, always beginning with a declaration about Christ which is the core of his teaching. In Romans 1:1, the word of God says: "From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, who was called to be an apostle and consecrated to preach the gospel of God..." (Romans 1:1).

Paul's assignment, calling, and ministry as a pastor-teacher is a gift from God to preach the Gospel of Christ. Paul's statements prove that he had firm convictions. "... because I know whom I trust, and I am sure He has the power to keep what He has entrusted to me until the day of the Lord." II Timothy 1:12.

The confidence he had from the bottom of his heart in Paul made him highly appreciate God's grace. Paul strongly believed that his ministry as a pastor was driven/motivated by the love of Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-21). Paul had a great love for the church he pastored (I Thessalonians 2:7-8); To the congregation, he loves he always wrote letters; some letters are written "*greetings to ...*" this proves that both his students and the congregation he is entrusted with are always prayed for and missed. Paul did not

seek vain praise from men (I Thessalonians 2:6); towards some hard-hearted people against the Gospel being preached, he did not try to win their hearts in the slightest.

In his ministry duties as a shepherd teacher, Paul always set an example of a good life for the congregation (I Corinthians 4:6,16; Philippians 3:17). One of the important things is exemplary. Every teacher is required to be an example or model for his students. Paul said that every believer or disciple must be an example to everyone. The congregation must be an example for others (I Thessalonians 1:7), and the disciple must also be an example for believers in words, behavior, love, faithfulness, and holiness (I Timothy 4:12).

In his ministry duties as a shepherd teacher, Paul has a very high work ethic: working hard to provide the best for those he serves (I Thessalonians 2:9,11-12). Paulus and his fellow ministers worked hard day and night. In order not to be a burden to anyone, they worked with their own hands. It shows that he is a teacher who is diligent and diligent both in teaching and in supporting his life.

Paul, in his ministry assignment as a shepherd teacher, had very high integrity, both before God and before humans (I Thessalonians 2:5,10). Integrity means honesty, quality, nature, or condition that shows a unified whole to radiate authority.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it is concluded that as Christian Religious Education teacher who acts as shepherd teacher, Christian Religious Education teachers have to do their best in carrying out their duties and services, but they still need to be improved. As a shepherd teacher, the main thing is that souls are well served, even if they have to sacrifice a personal pleasure.

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