

The Reformed Pastor Chapter Outlines  
Chapter 3, Section 1

III. Chapter 3 - Application to the Oversight of the Flock

A. Section 1 - The use of humiliation (humility)

1. Opening remarks

- a) It is our daily business to humble our souls before the Lord for our past negligence and implore God's assistance (133)
- b) We must be willing to amend our own hearts as we do those we minister to, when we read what Paul says in Acts 20 to the elders in Ephesus we must:
  - (1) Compare our lives with it
  - (2) Unless we are hardhearted, melt under a sense of our neglect
  - (3) Be laid in the dust before God bewailing our omissions
  - (4) Fly for refuge to the blood of Christ for His pardoning grace
- c) We must deal plainly and faithfully in the confessions of our failures "for how can a wretched sinner, one chargeable with so many and so great transgressions, presume to justify himself before God?" (135)
- d) (a parentheses on gratefulness to God for God's blessing in Baxter's day because he does not believe that "ever England had so able and faithful a ministry since it was a nation" 135)

2. The particular and most heinous sins that beset pastors

- a) The most heinous is PRIDE (137)
  - (1) Pride leads much of what we choose to do and do
  - (2) Pride causes us to "taketh off the edge" of our preaching and pastoring and so we pull punches and speak carefully so as to not offend or lose reputation (138)
  - (3) The summary of pride - "It makes men, both in studying and preaching, to seek themselves, and deny God, when they should seek God's glory, and deny themselves (138).
  - (4) Pride makes us despise any who contradict or correct our faults and only love those who agree with us and promote us and think just like us (141)
    - (a) We are far too tender such that any who dare disagree with us cause us great hurt
    - (b) Thus, we refuse to speak against the errors of others but only to speak smoothly about them
    - (c) We idolize our honor
  - (5) The need is to allow the "very design of the gospel" which is to debase us by God's law and so carry us on to humiliation.
    - (a) "Humility is not a mere ornament of a Christian, but an essential part of the new creature." (143)
    - (b) Let Christ's humility humble us
    - (c) How can so freely call a drunkard to sobriety or a fornicator to chastity (as if we do this) but refuse to say to our pride, "we cannot be saved unless we become humble" (145)?
      - (i) Pride is a greater sin than either drunkenness or whoredom and humility as necessity as sobriety and chastity.
      - (ii) Beware of doing what is God's work for ourselves and not for God! We must be sure to study humility (146)(

- b) The second most serious sin that besets pastors is that we “do not so seriously, unreservedly, and laboriously lay out ourselves in the work of the Lord” (146)
  - (1) We praise God that there are many who work with all their might, but too many are negligent in their work
  - (2) How to devote ourselves to our work:
    - (a) Devote ourselves to our studies
      - (i) We must delight ourselves in in study
      - (ii) We must study men, how to convince and “get within men” (147), how to bring each truth to the quick (to the conscience)
    - (b) Devote ourselves to our pastoring with more vigor and seriousness
      - (i) Few preach or minister with all their might
      - (ii) Few speak about everlasting joys and torments as to make men believe that we are in earnest!
      - (iii) We lack intimate and lively application! (147)
      - (iv) We must expend ourselves to awaken our own hearts before we go into the pulpit (or into the counseling)
      - (v) This isn’t about constant loudness but seriousness because of compassion and love
        - (a) Beware of jesting and smooth talk or gaudy oration
        - (b) Speak to move others, study on how to use your pronunciation and tone to impact their hearts (149)
    - (c) We must devote ourselves to help other congregations find able ministers (150)