



Who is My Shepherd?

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalms 23:1 (NKJV)

Number 3 in the series "The Lord is My Shepherd"

It is important for each of us to examine the evidence in our lives to see who is my shepherd, and see who is leading my life. It is easy to say words, even religious words like, "I'm a believer. I've given my life to Christ. The Lord is my Shepherd. He leads me."

Sounds good, but is it true? Is there evidence in our lives that would stand in a court of law to prove that the Lord is my Shepherd? Again, who is my shepherd? Who is leading my life? Who am I following?

God created us spirit, soul, and body. If we are daily praying, reading our Bible, and obeying God's Word in every area of our lives, there will be evidence of a life that glorifies Jesus. However, Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV) reads, *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."*

You see, there is clear evidence to prove that Jesus truly is my Shepherd and that Jesus is leading my life. If God's Spirit is on the throne of my life, my spirit and soul (which is my mind, will and emotions) will submit to the Spirit, and I will live a life that glorifies Jesus. If my soul (again, my mind, will and emotions) is on the throne of my life and I am allowing my soul to be my shepherd and lead me, then my body will submit to my soul. There will be evidence in my daily decisions because they will be based on what I think is right, what I want to do and how I feel about a person

or situation. It will be a life of worship of self, self on the throne, self being the shepherd, self leading me—a life that brings glory to self and dishonor to Jesus.

If my body is on the throne of my life and I am allowing my body to be my shepherd and lead me, then my soul will submit to my body. There will be clear evidence that my daily decisions are based on the desires of my flesh. It will bring destruction to my life and reproach to the name of Jesus Christ.

Beloved, it is very simple. All we have to do is examine our lives, our decisions, and our actions. Not what we think or feel, but look honestly at the evidence. Are the TV, videos, books and magazines we read our shepherds? Are we allowing our culture to shape our decisions as to the house we buy, the car we drive, the food we eat, the fashions we wear, the relationships we have, how to be a husband and father or a wife and mother, how to be a grandparent, how to live the single life, how to handle finances, etc., etc.?

If the evidence says 'yes,' then our soul and our body, the lust of our flesh, and the love of self and this world are our shepherd and are leading us to destruction. If Jesus truly is our Shepherd, all our decisions will be based on prayer and obedience to the Bible. Please examine your life. Be honest. Is the Lord truly your Shepherd? If not, surrender to Him today. He wants to lead your life, and He is better at doing it than we are.

— Janice McBride

Preparing Christ's Bride Ministries

1941 Croftdale Drive, Florissant, MO 63031 • janice@janicemcbride.com

Preparing Christ's Bride Ministries is an international ministry. Janice is from Scotland and lives in St. Louis, Missouri with her husband, Richard. They minister at retreats, churches, military bases and prisons, helping people to glorify Jesus through obedience to His Word.