

# Pastoral Care (IPC)

**Australian College of Theology name:** *Introduction to Pastoral Care*

## Unit Description

Sharpen your pastoral skills with this introductory unit on the theology and nature of pastoral care. Investigate the biblical basis of caring, and examine issues and skills such as listening, dealing with difficult relationships, encouragement, grief, identity and practical ways of caring for yourself and others. Be helped to become a more effective member of your church and your ministry to others will never be the same again.

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## Aim

To further an understanding of the pastoral ministry in relation to the personal and corporate needs of individuals and to promote growth in maturity.

## Outline

### **Section A: Biblical foundations for pastoral care**

1. Patterns of the pastor's role, e.g. Ezekiel 34, John 14, 16, Ephesians 4, the Pastoral Epistles.
2. The pastoral role of the congregation, e.g., John 17, Acts 2, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4–6, Colossians 3–4.
3. Biblical insights on the nature of human individuals and human groups.
4. The maturity theme, individual and corporate, within the New Testament.
5. The distinction between pastoral care and pastoral counseling.

**Section B: The demands made by crisis situations, for example:** illness, alcoholism and drug dependence, youth homelessness and delinquency, marriage problems, terminal illness, death, bereavement.

**Section C: Pastoral care with small groups and families;** the local church and the helping professions; preventative care.

### **Section D: Developing skills in pastoral care**

1. Up-building skills; teaching, encouragement, recognition of gifts.
2. Coping with negativity, e.g. criticism, gossip, scapegoating.
3. Individual 'discipling'.
4. Pastoring the pastors.