

The Attackers: Sheep Are Led by Their Shepherd, not Driven; the Helplessness of Sheep: Unable to Clean Themselves: God Cleanses Us at Salvation & Rebound; Helpless when Injured: Believers Recover through Recall of Doctrine; Can't Defend Themselves: Believers Do So by Means of a High Inventory of Ideas: an Edification Complex inside the Bubble, the Double-Column Advance, Motivational & Functional Virtues, & the Sophisticated Spiritual Life

8. Sheep cannot be driven; they must be led since they have no sense of direction. Therefore, the shepherd moves forward before the flock and leads them, calling them as he goes. Seventeen times in the Gospels Jesus encouraged people to “follow Me.”
9. There are a number of ways that sheep are helpless and therefore require someone to lead them.
10. We are the Lord’s sheep and we must be led by Him and in His absence we must be led by His Word. As we pursue truth we benefit from divine protection: “God shall be our fortress / Truth shall be our guide.”
11. Sheep are not able to clean themselves therefore the shepherd must do so. Two illustrations may be drawn from this: (1) we are forgiven of our pre-salvation sins through faith alone in Christ alone and (2) of our post-salvation sins through confession alone to God alone.
12. Sheep are helpless when injured. Most animals lick their wounds but sheep do not, therefore, wounded sheep must be cared for by the shepherd. When we are wounded spiritually in the Invisible War, God comforts us by means of recall from His Word.
13. Sheep cannot defend themselves from predators; they are vulnerable to the attack of carnivorous animals, birds, and reptiles since they cannot fight back nor do they have the propensity to do so.
14. Humans do not have the assets of most of the lower animals who use sharp teeth, slashing claws, gripping talons, blinding speed, concealing camouflage, or striking fangs. Sheep simply stand still and bleat, which is sheep language for whining.
15. So what do we have? Knowledge, promises, doctrinal rationales, doctrinal conclusions, faith, confidence, motivational recall, trust, problem-solving devices, inner integrity, demonstrated honor, rectitude, and probity – all of these are components that make up the believer’s edification complex of the soul.
16. The Holy Spirit’s filling ministry provides the foundation for the development of Christian integrity.
17. From His teaching ministry the believer develops spiritual momentum based on a standard of rational thinking from Bible doctrine resident in the soul.
18. In order to avoid the arrogance that constantly plagues mankind, the believer must develop genuine humility to maintain teachability and to continue his spiritual advance.
19. This momentum enables the believer to acquire spiritual self-esteem and the motivational virtue of personal love for God.
20. Without motivation, function is impossible. Personal love for God is designed to develop the objectivity necessary to direct unconditional love toward all mankind.

- 21a. The modus operandi of a believer in spiritual autonomy removes the intensity previously associated with interpersonal relationships.