

the shepherd or the stranger

“...and they follow him because they recognize his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't recognize his voice.” John 10:4b-5

the voice of the shepherd	the condemnation of the stranger
Tone of Voice: gentle, loving, imploring, beseeching, urging our return to Him.	Tone of voice: accusing, nagging, mocking voice. His voice generates fear, causes confusion and a sense of rejection.
Specific: tells you to take one specific action in response to sin. Freedom follows.	Vague and general: generates a blanketing sense of guilt, as though everything is wrong and there is no action you can take to overcome. Creates a sense of hopelessness and weakness.
Encouraging: says you can rely on His power, not your strength.	Discouraging: attacks your self-image, tells you that you are weak, that you are not special to God.
Releases you from the past: tells you your sin is forgiven, removed, never to be held against you.	Throws your past in your face: replays your sin and shame, reminds you of all your poor choices and bad decisions.
Attracts you to Him: generates an expectancy of kindness, love, forgiveness, a new beginning with His help. Speaks of your permanent relationship with Him.	Rejecting: produces the feeling that God has rejected you as unworthy and unholy, speaks of God as your judge and you as a miserable sinner.
Draws you into fellowship: sends others to minister to you in love. Speaks of His unchanging nature and His steadfast love, even when you fail Him.	Isolates you: gives suggestions that cause you to withdraw from others and to assume they will also reject you.
Tells the truth: states the facts about you and God.	Focuses on negative feelings: tells you the way you feel is the way things are; that the guilt, despair, hopelessness, the doubt about God's love for you are truth.