

How To Help Your Pastor

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 4:14-16

Introduction: A pastor whose church didn't like him decided that the Lord had called him to another congregation. The day came when he was going to tell his church that he was leaving and announced his resignation by saying, "Brethren, the same Lord who sent me to you is now calling me away."

After a moment of silence the song leader directed the congregation to stand and all the people sang, "What a Friend we have in Jesus!"

This reminds me that people's idea of a pastor often varies from person to person. Since the pastor is so often misunderstood, it is no wonder that so many ministers are weary with the ministry.

According to a survey of pastors by the *Fuller Institute of Church Growth*:

- 80% believe the ministry negatively affects their family life.
- 33% say being a minister is an outright hazard to their family.
- 75% reported a significant stress-related crisis at least once in their ministry.
- 50% feel unable to meet the needs of their job.
- 90% feel that no matter what their training, it is inadequate to cope with the demands of the ministry.
- 70% says they have a lower self-image now than when they started.
- 40% report a serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month.
- 70% do not have someone they consider a close friend.
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Why do so many ministers feel the way they do about the ministry? In my opinion it is because the minister and his ministry is so often misunderstood by people. In the passage before us we are given insight into a pastor's heart.

1. HELP HIM IN HIS PURSUIT

Paul says in verse 14, "I write not these things to shame you, but as beloved sons I warn you." He has been very straightforward with them. He pulled no punches or soft-stepped around the issues. He makes it clear that he was not trying to be hard on them but helpful to them. There was something he wanted for them and in them. What he had written and how he had written it was due to something he deeply desired for them.

A. HE SEEKS TO BRING PEOPLE **B. HE SEEKS TO BUILD PEOPLE**

2. HELP HIM IN HIS PRACTICE

Paul says in verse 16, "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." The word "follower" speaks of a mimic. Paul was telling them to mimic his life, to be imitators of his life. It was not just a case of telling them to do what he said, but also do what he did. He wanted them to be very familiar with his ways so that they could mimic his ways and lifestyle.

A. A LIFE THAT DISPLEASED THE LORD. **B. A LIFE THAT DISPLAYED THE LORD.**

3. HELP HIM IN HIS PREACHING (but Don't Tell Him)

If there is any area in which a pastor takes the hardest licks, it is in his preaching.

Someone has said that some pastors preach "longhorn sermons," a point here, a point there, and a lot of bull in between."

A visitor entered a church during the middle of the sermon and seated himself on the back row. After a few minutes he leaned over and asked the person beside him, "How long has the pastor been preaching?" The member said, "I think around 30 years." The visitor responded, "I'll stay then, he must be nearly done."

I heard about one minister that surprised his congregation by preaching a 10-minute sermon rather than his usual 30-minute sermon. He concluded by saying, "I regret to inform you, brethren, that my dog this morning ate the portion of my sermon which I have not delivered." After the service, a visitor walked up to the preacher and said, "Preacher, please let me know if your dog has pups. If it does, I want to buy one for my pastor."

It would be encouraging to many pastors if his people understood him better. It would be helpful if they understood his motives and ministry. He is not out to hurt, but help his people.

It would be helpful if they understood the tremendous task that is on him to live an exemplary and model life. If this were understood it would encourage members to lift their pastor up in prayer and hold his hands up to God.

It would be helpful if they understood why he has to preach the way he does at times. If this was understood people would not be so quick to criticize and judge him for the way he preaches and what he preaches.

People often say, "The pastor doesn't understand us."
The question is, "Do you understand your pastor?"

Most members do not know that from a human standpoint they play an important part in making a Pastor successful for the cause of Christ.

Like Paul . . . "I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you." (1 Cor. 4:14). In verse 15 . . . "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."

In other words Paul says, "While you might have many speakers to bless you, you will never have anyone love you like the Pastor."

1-HELP HIM PREACH THE WORD OF GOD

- HELP HIM but DO NOT TELL HIM what to PREACH.

1 Thess. 5:17-22

2-HELP HIM DO RIGHT

Mat 18:15

What do you mean, "Help Him Do Right?"

- Get the people involved, not the pastor.

Examples:

- Misbehaving young people - Parents, not Pastor corrects.
- Activities, music, dress, etc.
- Gossip, stop listening to or say, "let's go together to the Pastor."

2 Tim 4:2-4

1 Thess. 5:13

3-HELP HIM PROSPER

1 Tim 5:17-18

- Lord we will keep him poor, if you will keep him humble.
- Notice where Paul says the true assets of a Church really are.
- Bible Preacher! - not a building, property or bank account.

- Never be afraid of overpaying a Bible Preacher.
- Don't short change the man of God - it withhold God's blessings.

CONCLUSION: Love your preacher and his family. The godly preacher is becoming more unique everyday. Don't take your preacher for granted if he is a Bible preaching and Bible believing Pastor. God could give you one that isn't either. Pray for him and support him financially. God will bless in a most unusually way, trust me.