

Appreciate Your Pastor

I. The blessing of a pastor

1. A pastor is a gift to the church from Jesus Christ (**Eph 4:8,11**).
2. As God sets members in the church as it pleases Him (**1Co 12:18**), so he gives ministers to the church (**1Co 3:5**).
3. God gives pastors after His own heart to feed His churches with knowledge and understanding (**Jer 3:15**).
4. God gives the church a pastor for several reasons:
 - A. For the perfecting of the saints (**Eph 4:12**).
 - i. Perfect *v.* - 1. *a. trans.* To bring to completion; to complete, finish, consummate; to carry through, accomplish.
 - ii. This is a process which God uses ministers to accomplish (**Phi 1:4-7**).
 - B. For the work of the ministry (**Eph 4:12**). This would include:
 - i. Preaching the gospel.
 - ii. Evangelism.
 - iii. Adding people to the church by baptism.
 - iv. Serving the ordinances.
 - C. For the edifying of the body of Christ (**Eph 4:12**).
 - i. Edify *v.* - 3. *trans.* In religious use: To build up (the church, the soul) in faith and holiness; to benefit spiritually; to strengthen, support.
 - ii. Ministers are masterbuilders of God's house, the church (**1Co 3:9-11**).
 - D. To bring the church into the unity of the faith (**Eph 4:13**).
 - i. Unity *n.* - II. 3. The quality or condition of being one in mind, feeling, opinion, purpose, or action; harmonious combination together of the various parties or sections (of the Church, a state, etc.) into one body; concord or harmony amongst several persons or between two or more.
 - ii. The pastor facilitates unity in the church by preaching the truth uncompromisingly and exhorting the brethren to all be of the same mind (**1Co 1:10**).
 - E. To bring the members to full maturity, to the measure of the stature of Christ (**Eph 4:13**).
 - i. The job and ultimate goal of a pastor is to bring the members of the body of Christ to the maturity of Christ in every way (**Eph 4:15**).
 - ii. This will never be fully realized in any child of God in this life.
 - iii. Different members will mature at different rates and some will stay stagnant, which is burden on a pastor's heart.
 - F. To keep the church from being deceived by false teachers and doctrine (**Eph 4:14**).
 - G. To keep the church tightly joined together so all the member of the body function optimally together (**Eph 4:16**).

II. The need to love and respect your pastor

1. Your pastor has been given the rule over you by God (**Heb 13:7**).
 - A. You should therefore follow his faith (**Heb 13:7**).
 - B. You should submit yourselves to him (**Heb 13:17**).
 - C. He watches for your souls and gives an account of you to God.

- D. Make his job easier by behaving yourselves so that he can do it with joy and not with grief.
 - E. He rules well and labors in the word and doctrine and should therefore receive double honour (**1Ti 5:17**).
 - i. He is worthy of his reward (**1Ti 5:18**).
 - ii. Are you muzzling your ox?
2. You should know your pastor (**1Th 5:12**).
- A. If you don't know your pastor, you're wrong.
 - B. Get to know him.
3. He ought to be *esteemed very highly* in love for his works' sake (**1Th 5:13**).
- A. Esteem *v.* - 1. *trans.* To estimate the value of, assign (a value) to; to value, assess, appraise. Const. at. In later use only fig., to assign the degree of merit of
 - B. Very *adv.* - In a high degree or measure; to a great extent; exceedingly, extremely, greatly.
 - C. Highly *adv.* - 3. a. In or to a high degree, amount, extent, or condition; greatly, intensely, extremely, very, much. With such verbs as commend, esteem, extol, honour, praise, value, the sense is coloured so as to run into 3b or 4b. 3b. At a high rate or price. 4b. With honour, honourably; with high approval, appreciation, or praise: now chiefly with think, speak, or the like.
 - D. Do you esteem your pastor very highly?

III. A window into your pastor's life

- 1. Your pastor is a member of your church (**1Co 12:27**).
 - A. Therefore he is one with you in the body of Christ in faith and in the hope of your calling (**Eph 4:4-6**).
 - B. He is of like precious faith with you (**2Pe 1:1**).
 - C. He glorifies God with you with one mind and one mouth (**Rom 15:5-6**).
 - D. He is in the trenches with you striving together for the faith of the gospel (**Phi 1:27**).
- 2. Though he is one with you in the body of Christ, he is also *separated from you* unto the gospel of God (**Rom 1:1**).
 - A. Separated *ppl.* - 1. Set apart or asunder, disjoined, withdrawn, etc.
 - B. Disjoined *ppl.* - Disunited, separated, parted, etc.
 - C. Withdrawn *ppl.* - In various senses of the vb.; sometimes in a purely static sense, secluded; also of mental state, detached.
 - D. Separate *v.* - 1. a. To put apart, set asunder (two or more persons or things, or one from another); to disunite, disconnect, make a division between.
 - E. Withdraw *v.* - 1. To take back or away (something that has been given, granted, allowed, possessed, enjoyed, or experienced).
- 3. This separation of your pastor began many years ago before he was ordained when he through desire for God and His word *separated* himself to intermeddle with all wisdom (**Pro 18:1**).
- 4. Eventually the Holy Ghost *separated* him from the brethren for the work of the ministry to which he was called (**Act 13:2**).
 - A. The Holy Ghost made him an *overseer* of the church (**Act 20:28**).
 - B. At that time he was *separated* from the brethren of the church.

- C. Whereas before he was *added* to the church (**Act 2:41-42**), now he is *withdrawn* from it.
 - D. Whereas before he had been *joined* unto the church when he was first converted (**Act 5:13**), now he is *disjoined* from the brethren.
 - E. Whereas his entrance into the church was an experience of *uniting* and *connection*, his entrance into the ministry is in many ways an experience of *disuniting*, *disconnection*, and *division* from the brethren.
 - F. Instead of being taught with the rest, he now teaches them.
 - G. Instead of sitting next to the brethren and being overseen by the pastor, he now stands in front of them and oversees them (**1Pe 5:2; Act 20:28**).
 - H. Instead of following the faith of the pastor (**Heb 13:7**) along with the brethren, he now becomes the example that the believers are supposed to follow (**1Ti 4:12; 1Pe 5:3; Tit 2:7**).
5. He is held to a higher standard than you are.
- A. He has increased sorrow and grief because of his increased knowledge and wisdom (**Ecc 1:18**).
 - B. More is required of him because more is given unto him (**Luk 12:48**).
 - C. He will therefore receive the greater condemnation (**Jam 3:1**).
 - D. It takes but *a little* folly to destroy him (**Ecc 10:1; 1Ti 3:2**).
 - E. He is that watchman on the wall who must always be vigilant (**1Ti 3:2**).
 - F. He is ever watching (**Heb 13:17**), which renders church and church get-togethers different for him than they are for you.
6. There is a subtle, but very real, separation between a pastor and his church. He longs to once again be just one of the guys, but he knows to do so would be his demise.
- A. "The king who is not a lonely man is a fool." - Pastor Conrad Jarrell
 - B. His job is very lonely, even if he has a lot of interaction with people.
 - C. It's lonely at the top.

IV. What should you do for your pastor?

- 1. Pray for him (**1Th 5:25; 2Th 3:1**).
 - A. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (**Jam 5:16**).
 - B. Your prayer can turn to his salvation (**Phi 1:19**).
- 2. Study your Bible in order to live a better Christian life which will make his job easier.
- 3. Don't make stupid decisions so that he has to go to God for you with grief (**Heb 13:17**).
- 4. Encourage and support him.
- 5. Love him *in deed* not just in word (**1Jo 3:18**).