

The Local Church and it's Pastor

Sunday PM, November 26, 2023

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Jeremiah.3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 10:21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

Jeremiah 12:10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

Jeremiah 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

- I. The relationship between the pastor and the church members is a very special and important one.
 - A. If it isn't right the church isn't going to make it, and there are long-reaching effects.
 - B. It is like all other human relationships that are important in that it should be permanent and not temporary.
 - C. It should rank in importance, closeness, and stability as the relationships of parent and child or brother and sister.
 - D. It should be based on love, just as these other relationships, and not simply on laws and duty.
 - E. If the church is going to be able to fulfill its mission and purpose ...
 1. The pastor must truly love the people.
 2. The people must truly love the pastor.
 3. The people must truly love one another, too.
 4. What is done must be done in the spirit of love and cooperation and not strife or selfishness.
 - F. It simply won't be a real New Testament Church if everything is done mechanically out of duty or habit.
 1. There will be no life, and no joy in a church like that either.
 2. It will work like a machine or a worldly organization – dead and lifeless, even though it may be full of activity.
- II. The mark that identifies a true church to the world is that the people there love one another.

John 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- A. The love there must be like the love of family – if you want to see the church go anywhere.

- B. The church members must love one another with the right kind of love.
 1. Not common human love only, but with the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.
 2. It is possible to love one another with the same type of love that world has; a love that ceases with offenses or other interests.
 3. The love of the brethren must be more than this.
 4. It must be the love of God which will withstand offenses, injustices, and all other faults and even sins we might see in our fellow members.
 5. Agape love is to love in a social or a moral sense according to the deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle.
 6. Phileo love is to *have affection* for (denoting *personal* attachment, as a matter of sentiment or feeling;) to be a friend.
- C. Agape is a matter of the mind while phileo is a matter of the heart.
 1. Agape is the kind of love you have toward distant family members that you rarely ever see, while phileo is the kind of love you have for your children, your spouse, or your parents.
- D. God wants your heart – He wants you to love him not only in the agape sense, but with phileo love, also.
 1. When Jesus asked Peter “lovest thou me?” He used agape the first two times and phileo the last time.
 2. Peter answered all three times with phileo.
 3. If you love God with phileo love – you will love your brothers and sisters in Christ with phileo love, also.
 4. If you love each other with phileo love you will weather the problems and storms and still love each other.
 5. If you love your pastor with the right kind of love (both) you will be able to love him and stick with him even when circumstances are hard.
 - a) Or even when he gets on your toes.

III. The pastor must be the overseer of the flock, but not a tyrant or a dictator.

Proverbs 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy. –

- A. David was a great example of authority and how it should be handled.
- B. He trusted God completely and truly loved the people.
- C. The people were loyal to David because they knew he loved them and would do right by them.
- D. The pastor – church relationship must be this way, too.

1 Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

IV. The pastor must feed the flock.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- A. The sheep must have spiritual sustenance.
- B. They must *get* something when they come to church.

C. His heart must be a well of living water springing up so that the sheep don't go away hungry and dissatisfied.

V. The church has some duties toward the pastor also.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

1 Thessalonians. 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; ¹³And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

- A. You must respect your pastor and be willing to follow him.
 - 1. You must be able to have confidence in him – in all areas; you HAVE to be able to trust him.
 - 2. He cannot be shifty or changeable; but he must remain teachable at the same time.
- B. You must realize his responsibility to God for your spiritual welfare.
 - 1. You must realize the great importance of his work and what he is doing.
- C. You must honor him – in the same sense that you honor your parents.
 - 1. Not exalt him or flatter him, but just honor him in your heart and in your actions toward him.
- D. You must KNOW your pastor – not be a stranger or merely have a slight acquaintance with him.
- E. You should make his job easier by not being contentious, careless, uninterested, and worldly.
 - 1. Make it a joy for him to be your pastor.
 - 2. If you make it a grief for him to be your pastor it will not be profitable for you.

VI. So both have responsibilities and duties.

- A. It takes time for these things to develop in the relationship.
- B. Both sides have to work at it and commit themselves to each other.
- C. Only then can God begin to bless the church and the work.
- D. The thing to be most highly desired is for God to be in the midst and blessing the work.
 - 1. There are people all over who are searching for such a place – where they can come and truly hear from God.
- E. Wouldn't you like for this to be a place like that?