

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PASTORS AND THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 | March 17, 2024

Early Church Leaders

*“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” **Acts 14:21–23***

“From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them...Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Acts 20:17–18, 28 NIV

Pastors

1. Pastors are _____

*“...I worked harder than any of them though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” **1 Corinthians 15:10***

*“For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.” **1 Thessalonians 2:9***

A. Pastors labor in preaching and teaching

*“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’” **1 Timothy 5:17–18***

“An idler has no right in the pulpit. He is an instrument of Satan in damning the souls of men. The ministry demands brain labor. The preacher must throw his thought into his teaching, and read and study to keep his mind in good trim. Above all, he must put heart work into his preaching. He must feel what he preaches. It must never be with him an easy thing to deliver a sermon. He must feel as if he could preach his very life away before the sermon is done.” **Charles Spurgeon**

B. Pastors labor among people

“But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.” **1 Thessalonians 2:7**

C. Pastors labor together with God

“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.” **2 Corinthians 6:1**

“For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” **Colossians 1:29**

2. Pastors are _____

A. Pastors manage with authority

“He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?” **1 Timothy 3:4–5**

B. Pastors manage with care

“And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.” **Luke 22:25–26**

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” **Acts 20:28**

C. Pastors manage in the Lord

3. Pastors are _____

A. Pastors counsel with correction

B. Pastors counsel with warning/instruction

“Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.”
2 Thessalonians 3:15

“... warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom.” **Colossians 1:28**

C. Pastors counsel with concern

“... for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.”
Acts 20:31

“I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.” **1 Corinthians 4:14**

The Church

1. _____ your Pastors

“Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints...Give recognition to such people.”

1 Corinthians 16:18

- A. Acknowledge them as brothers in Christ

- B. Acknowledge them as servants of Christ

*“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” **1 Corinthians 4:1***

- C. Acknowledge them as examples in Christ

*“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” **Hebrews 13:7***

2. _____ your Pastors

- A. Esteem them very highly

- B. Esteem them in love

- C. Esteem them because of their work

“What attitude should the local congregation adopt towards its pastors? They are neither to despise them, as if they were superfluous, nor to flatter or fawn on them as if they were popes or princes, but rather to *acknowledge them* (12), and to *Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work* (13a). This combination of appreciation and affection will enable pastors and people to *Live in peace with each other* (13b). **John Stott**