

Notes from the Pastor's Pastor

What Can You Do To Assist Your Pastor?

Our pastors are capable of doing a better job if they feel they have the physical and prayer support of those they serve. The success and progress of the church does not hinge on the efforts of the pastor alone. Each individual of the local church can make their pastor more effective. Here are a few suggestions.

1. Pray for Your Pastor:

The pastor's responsibilities are far more complex and demanding than most people realize. The majority of the time, the pastor ministers in situations that will never be known by anyone except the individuals directly involved in the situation. As a result, the pastor bears burdens that can only be discussed in prayer. People confide in and trust their pastor with their innermost feelings. The pastor listens and prays with individuals in an attempt to help them find peace and resolution. The pastor takes his sheep to the Word of God for direction and insight.

Often your pastor, as spiritual physician and counselor, is expected to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. There are times when your pastor cancels vacations, postpones family time, and leaves a meal on the table in order to respond to the needs within the congregation.

Pastors are expected to have something of substance to give to the congregation when they enter the pulpit. Many pastors spend 40 – 50 hours per week in study, prayer, meditation, sermon preparation, and planning for the weekly services and activities.

Pastors face the pressure of meeting the needs of a growing, diverse congregation. They are expected to relate and communicate to senior citizens, middle age adults, young couples, collage and career individuals, singles divorcees, widows and widowers, teenagers, children and list continues to grow as the attendance of the church grows.

The pressures that are placed upon pastors and their families are great and far reaching.

Your pastor must have wisdom that can only come from God. Pray that the anointing of God will be upon your pastor and that he/she will be filled with God's grace, strength, wisdom, inspiration and direction.

2. Be Faithful:

Faithfulness to the work of the Lord and attendance in the House of the Lord is encouraging to the conscientious pastor. People who are consistent and dependable in church attendance and to their leadership assignments portray their commitment to Christ and encourages the entire church.

3. Be a Willing Servant:

The sad documentary on our society is that most people are so entangled with the affairs of this life that there's no time left for service to God. Too many have become "Sunday Morning Christians." Even some of the "saints" have mistakenly assumed that church attendance is "reasonable service."

The Bible teaches that each individual has been given gifts and talents to be used in the service of our Lord. Pastors and leadership are encouraged when people become involved ministry.

Could you assist the pastor and church in visiting shut-ins and those who are discouraged? Could you send a card or take a bowl of soup to someone who is sick or missed several church services? Could you invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to attend church services and activities? Could you clean a classroom, stuff envelopes, paint a classroom, planting Spring flowers or perform some small but important job around the church?

Seek God concerning your gifts and talents. Speak to your pastor and become a willing volunteer.

4. Speak to Your Pastor Concerning Your Wants and Needs:

The true shepherd cares about each sheep. Most pastors are open to hearing about what is on the minds of their sheep. However, very few pastors have the ability to read the minds of their sheep. The Pastor has not been given the ability to read minds.

Be sensitive to the already overcrowded schedule of your pastor and your pastor will be sure to be sensitive to your wants and needs.

While many do not need regular visits or phone calls, others have a strong desire to have a pastoral visit. Some individuals actually feel neglected if their pastor does not visit and mistakenly feel that their pastor does not care about them.

Express yourself, "Pastor could you come by to visit in my home sometime?" Pastor I really need to talk with you." Pastor can you schedule me some time this week? Pastor can I take you to lunch this week?" "Pastor can we meet at Starbucks this week?"

5. Express Your Pastoral Appreciation to Everyone:

If you are pleased with your church and pastor, tell everyone that will listen. Shout it from the rooftops. Be your church's best cheerleader. Even if you have to search, find something good to say about your church and your pastor.

6. Express Your Dissatisfaction Only to Your Pastor:

When you cannot find something good to say about your church and your pastor, it is time to have a closed door discussion with your pastor. No pastor should object to hearing complaints that come in a sweet, gentle, non-demanding spirit.

If you are hurt, disappointed or disillusioned, the proper way to fix the problem is to speak directly to the people involved.

7. Be Patient with Your Pastor:

I have rarely been accused of acting too fast. However, I have acted too slowly at times.

Most progressive members would like to see their local church grow and ministries prosper. Some of our local ministries need to be discarded, have a face-lift or take a new direction.

However patience and forbearance with one another is required for the Family of God to grow together.

8. Give Your Pastor Family:

Your pastor's family has special needs also. As a spouse and parent, your pastor has the responsibility to give love, time and attention.

Too many pastors have worked to gain the favor, attention and acclaim of their church world, and released too late that they had lost their spouse, children and home.