

Love Community Baptist Church

Wednesday Night Virtual Bible Study

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Wednesday, September 25, 2024



Part 5 - Building Relationships (Pastor)

Are relationships important? I am not just focusing on Marriage or Dating but every relationship you have with others. Should relationships be healthy? Should relationships be cultivated? Should we work to mend, restore and rebuild broken relationships? Let's look at what God says in scripture concerning our relationships with one another:

The Bible ranks healthy relationships as the most important thing in life. A Jewish religious expert asked Jesus (Matt. 22:36), "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied (Matt. 22:37-40):

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

RELATIONSHIPS: THE PASTOR

In order to understand the Responsibilities which drives the relationship between the Pastor and the Congregation here are some scriptures that outline the duties/roles of why God instilled Pastor's to be the Under Shepherd of the flock (church)

- 2 Timothy 4:2 – "2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."
- Acts 20:28 – "28 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."
- Hebrews 13:17 – "17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."
- James 3:1 – "1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."
- Jeremiah 3:15 – "15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."
- 1 Peter 5:1-4 – "1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is

under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”

- 1 Timothy 5:17 – “17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”
- 1 Peter 5:2-3 – “2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

The bible speaks abundantly on how the people/congregation are supposed to treat the Pastor/Under Shephard/Man of God. The bible also speaks of how the Pastor is supposed to treat and care for the flock as well.

Tonight, I want to examine the relationship between the Pastor and Congregation. Let’s take a unique and transparent look at issues that exist between the Pastor and Congregation that God instructs us to build in a positive way.

Here are some things that can affect the relationship between Pastor and Congregation:

- Can the Pastor be a Friend to His members?
- Can the Pastor be transparent with His “known” or “perceived” flaws?
- Can the Pastor **TRUST** His members, and can the Pastor **BE TRUSTED**?
- Does the Pastor **DESERVE** double honor? Should it be demanded or given?
- Should the Pastor’s life be open to the Congregation?

Article - The pastor and his congregation
By: Andrew Davies

All relationships are subject to stress and strain, including that between a pastor and a congregation. People sometimes complain. ‘The pastor never visits me.’ ‘He doesn’t preach the gospel.’ ‘He is not like our former pastor or the American preachers.’ ‘He tries to do everything himself.’ Pastors sometimes grumble. ‘Some people have such stony faces.’ ‘They have a lot to say but are hardly ever in the prayer meeting.’ ‘The officers behave like CEOs.’ ‘Nothing I do makes any difference.’ On occasion the relationship is so fraught that it breaks down altogether.

So what can be done?

Every relationship has two sides and carries mutual responsibilities. Here are six ways in which this is true of the pastor/people relationship.

1. The pastor is a teacher of the Word. If he is to do so with faithfulness, balance, clarity and warmth he will need time to pray and study. The congregation therefore will expect him to open up the Scriptures. Their eagerness to receive the Word will encourage him to feed them well.
2. The pastor is a preacher of the gospel. His calling is to inspire and move his hearers to praise God for his mighty work of redemption and to equip them for their own witness. The congregation will pray for him to do this with freshness and passion.
3. The pastor is a shepherd of the Lord's people. A skillful shepherd will accompany, feed, tend, protect and lead the flock. He will be available, approachable and accessible. The congregation will be willing for this and ready to inform him of their pastoral needs.
4. The pastor is an overseer. As such he is set aside to watch over, look after, warn, encourage and equip the people. He will do so in partnership with his fellow officers, delegating and sharing the workload where possible. The congregation's responsibility is to value pastoral oversight and serve the Lord according to their gifts.
5. The pastor is an elder. Eldership involves a degree of spiritual maturity sometimes in advance of a person's age. It is about prayerful and efficient teamwork: praying together, sharing functions, combining gifts and being mutually accountable. Elders should always seek to work as a unit and to speak with one voice. They are not to dominate or control others by force of personality, eloquence, strictness or dependence. The congregation needs to call the right people to be elders, people who stand out for their godliness and giftedness.
6. The pastor is above all a servant. He is a servant of Christ, a servant of the gospel and a servant of the Church. Being a servant involves humility, self-sacrifice, patience and gentleness. It is the essential quality in pastoral leadership. The congregation must appreciate the honor of being a servant of Christ, neither flattering nor demeaning the pastor. If he is to think of himself as a servant, they are to think of him as a servant of the Lord.

These six features of the pastor/congregation relationship are important. They are, after all, the biblical teaching, under-girding everything else. Clarity here is fundamental to maintaining a healthy relationship.

Types of Relationships that we will be discussing:

Introduction

Family: Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Children

Spousal: Husband and Wife

Friend

Work: Colleagues

Church: Pastor (Clergy)

Church: Member