

The Pastor's Rule

A study of I Timothy 5:17

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**Printed under authority of:
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Foristell, Missouri 63348
www.independencebaptist.org**

I Timothy 5:17

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

We shall study this verse word by word in the following sequence:

1. Elder.
2. Rule.
3. Well.
4. Counted Worthy.
5. Double.
6. Honour.
7. Labour.
8. Word.
9. Doctrine.
10. Conclusion.

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this study is to acquaint the average church member with the responsibilities of the pastor. We feel that few church members understand the pastors work or his position. There are many pastors who do not understand what their work comprises. We trust this study will reveal the great responsibility of a pastor toward his people, which is not to satisfy their every whim, but to teach them the precious Word of God. The pastor must, by example, instruct his people to follow God, as Joshua said, *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”* Heb. 13:7 declares *“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.”* Heb 13:17 says, *“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.”*

These verses teach the mutual responsibilities of pastoring and being pastored. We will try to explain more here.

ELDER

The word “elder” is from the Greek word Presbuteros, which is always translated elder. There are at least seven different definitions of the word elder.

First

Elder - used to describe persons older than others.

1. Rom. 9:12, *“It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.”*
2. Luke 15:25, *“Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.”*
3. John 8:9, *“And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”*

Second

Elder - used to designate rulers among the people of Israel. Listed are just a few of the places.

1. Matt. 21:23 *“And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority.”*
2. Matt. 26:3 *“Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas.”*
3. Matt. 26:47 *“And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.”*
4. Matt. 26:57 *“And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.”*
5. Matt. 26:59 *“Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death.”*
6. See also Matt. 27:1,3,12,20,41.

Third

Elder - used to designate rulers in the early churches.

1. Acts 11:30 *“Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”*
2. The churches knew that the elders (rulers) could be trusted to distribute the offering to the poor.

Fourth

Elder - used to designate **ordained** men, not self appointed dictators.

1. Acts 14:23 *“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”*
2. Titus 1:5 *“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.”*

Titus 1:6-9 - The qualifications of an elder are given and in verse 7, the word bishop is substituted for elder. So, a bishop and an elder are the same.

Fifth

Elder - They held a position of rule alongside the apostles.

1. Acts 15:2 *“When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the **apostles and elders** about this question.”*
2. Acts 15:4 *“And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the **apostles and elders**, and they declared all things that God had done with them.”*
3. Acts 15:6 *“And the **apostles and elders** came together for to consider of this matter.”*

4. Acts 15:22 *“Then pleased it the **apostles and elders**, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren.”*
5. Acts 15:23 *“And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The **apostles and elders and brethren** send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.”*
6. Acts 16:4 *“And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the **apostles and elders** which were at Jerusalem.”*

The above scriptures are **all** of the passages that were written about **apostles and elders**. Naturally so, for the apostles remained at Jerusalem, Acts 8:1. The elders (and the rest of the people) were dispersed throughout the area.

Notice that **all** the church listened to the problem - the apostles and elders discussed it, probably in the hearing of the church, then the apostles **and** elders and brethren (Acts 15:23) sent the letter recommending the proper action. The apostles and elders were not dictators, but rather spiritual overseers. Their advice was sought and their recommendations accepted.

Sixth

Elder - In these passages the elder seems to be the spiritual head or leader (ruler).

1. Acts 20:17 *“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.”*
2. Acts 21:18 *“And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.”*
3. 1 Tim. 5:19 *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”*
4. James 5:14 *“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”*
5. 1 Pet. 5:1 *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.”*
6. 1 Pet. 5:5 *“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”*
7. 2 John 1 *“The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth.”*
8. 3 John 1:1 *“The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.”*

Seventh

Elder - Seems to be in an exalted place, not only in this world, but in the world to come.

1. 1 Tim. 5:1 *“Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren.”*
2. 1 Tim. 5:17 *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”*

3. 1 Tim. 5:19 *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”*
4. Rev. 4:4 *“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”*
5. Rev. 4:10 *“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying.”*
6. Rev. 5:5 *“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”*
7. Rev. 5:14 *“And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”*

The conclusion about elders is this: They are the ordained, spiritual rulers of God's people. They are picked by someone else, they do not appoint themselves to the position. They are not dictators.

RULE

There are six Greek words translated by the English word “rule.”

1. Kanon - used 5 times.
2. Archê - used 2 times.
3. Poimaino - used 11 times.
4. Proistemi - used 2 times.
5. Hegeomai - used 3 times.
6. Brabeuo - used 1 time.

First

Kanon means a measure of conduct - a law. This word is not a part of our discussion.

Second

Archê means beginning, first, pre-eminent rule.

I personally would call this a dictator rule. This is the kind of rule many pastors exercise in their churches today. This is the same kind of rule that exists in the Catholic church today. I believe this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes spoken of in Rev. 2:6. The two times the Greek word archê is used are:

1. Mark 10:42, *“But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. {43} But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:”* If ever a verse taught that the pastor nor anyone else is not to have the rule over the church, this is it. The only authority over God's people is God. Read I Pet. 5:3, *“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”* I Peter 5 was written especially to pastors. See verse 1 of chapter 5. This chapter was written to teach pastors how to pastor.
2. 1 Cor. 15:24, *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.”* Look at the

end result of all dictator pastorships. God will put them down. A lifetime of labor will be destroyed in a second simply because the race was not legal. 2 Tim. 2:5, *"And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."* 1 Cor. 3:12-15, *"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; {13} Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. {14} If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. {15} If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* I'm afraid many pastors works will be destroyed because they haven't followed God's plan. They have a need and a desire to serve God. They have seen that their churches have not given themselves to God as they ought. The pastors then take charge and lead the church in a way that the people fail to see Christ in the pastor, they only see the pastor. I remember once when I was a boy, our church was going to call a pastor. Many men were being discussed. The church finally decided to call this particular man for pastor. The reason? Not that he sought the Lord, not that people could see the Lord in him, not that he showed the Lord to the people, but because, as one lady put it, "My, how he can make our church grow. Look how other churches have grown that he has pastored." The last I heard of this pastor he was selling furniture, preaching on the side. The church is now in ruins. This happens too often. Pastors, let our people see Christ in us, not the business of the flesh.

Third

Poimaino means to shepherd, guide, govern.

The use of this word instructs the pastor how to rule his church. This Greek word is used 11 times in the Greek new testament. Four times it is translated as the English word "rule," one time as the English word "feeding cattle," and six times as the English word "feed."

Poimaino is translated four times as the word "rule."

1. Matt. 2:6, *"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."*
2. Rev. 2:27, *"And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."*
3. Rev. 12:5, *"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."*
4. Rev. 19:15, *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

There is no doubt who the above scriptures were describing. These verses tell of the strictness of the coming rule of Christ. They also tell about the "Word of God" that was first given to men. Yes, Christ will rule with a rod of iron, but he earned that right. He fulfilled all of the law, (love). He gave his blood on Calvary's cross that we

might be saved. He has given more than any man ever gave or could give. Many pastors, especially those just beginning in the ministry, feel they should have the immediate respect and honor of their churches. When they don't receive this immediately, they begin to preach some pretty hard things to their people. This just makes matters worse. As pastors, we have no right to expect *anything* from our churches. We ought to give ourselves for the benefit of our respective churches because God has called us to that place. We give ourselves to our people because God has filled us with a love for that work. Our work is not just a job. It's not always a pleasure. It's God's work that he desires us to do for his glory and our good. Pastors need to get their attitudes right and look to God for the things they need. How we need God's blessings!!

Pomaino is also translated into the English words "feed cattle." Luke 17:7, "*But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?*" In the above verse, the pastors job is compared to feeding cattle. Now, maybe church members would not like to be called cows, and maybe the pastor would not like to be called a cattle feeder. I am not trying to call church members cows, but rather to look at the comparison the Lord has given us. This is an earthly example (a parable). It can be a blessing for us to see the similarity.

Pomaino means to give them their portion of meat in due season. Matt. 24:45, "*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*" In the winter seasons, the cattle must be fed more due to the lack of green grass. In the summer seasons, the cattle do not need as much feed. This is also true of our church members. There are times when they will not need much counseling, consoling, so forth, but there will be times, when they need us to be there. In times of sickness, heartache, and trouble. This is not pampering our members, it is simply taking care of their needs.

Pastors should be consistent - In feeding cattle consistency pays off, and it also does in pastoring. Practice it continually. Never let it slide. Sometimes just being there when you are needed, just so the members will know that you are there, and care for them will be enough. However, always be a pastor. This may be a lonely way of life. Sometimes it means not really having the friendship of anybody, but rather being a friend to all. Above all, be a pastor. This is carried with you at all times. Even on vacation. Try not to make people uncomfortable when they are around you. Don't be showy, calling attention to your "calling", but be a pastor. Be a help, use scriptures freely, talk to the lost, but don't embarrass them.

What kind of feed do the cattle get? This is also important in feeding church members. As the seasons change the needs of the cattle change. In winter, feed more hay, it's not available in the fields. In the summer, feed more grain, it's not available in the fields. In feeding church members, remember that they need a variety, yet always feed the Bible. Don't feed them so much they choke on it, or lose interest in the Bible, but try to whet their spiritual appetites. When young cattle are being fed, they need a special diet. This is so with young church members. When young cattle

are fed, they are placed in an area where they can receive what they need. Often the farmer builds a calf feeder. This is a structure that allows the young cattle to enter the feeding area while restricting the older cattle from entering. This is like a class. A class in the church especially suited for the feeding of young church members. Sunday School is a good place to do this. Many churches have classes especially suited for young, or new church members. This is a good way to raise cattle, and grow good church members. It proves profitable.

Don't give up. This is true in feeding cattle and also in pastoring. Sometimes it looks easier to throw in the towel, but this is not what we ought to do. Sometimes it looks like we are not getting anyplace at all, but just keep up the good work. Don't quit. Look at the next reason.

Remember it takes a long time to completely feed out a cow. And it also takes a long time to completely "feed out" a church member. People must understand, they must hear the same truths over and over again. They must see that you intend for the truths to be a benefit to them. They must see that you care for them. Many times, erroneous beliefs have been in a persons mind for years. These thoughts do not go out quickly. They should go out quickly, but family pressures, and peer pressure, pressure from the community, and especially the pressure people impose when they say "If you do what the preacher says, you're a preacher follower." I know this sounds ridiculous, but it's true. Most church members want to serve the Lord without following the preacher. Yes, it's impossible to do. Only God can show them that. Just keep on, the truth will win out in the long run, and even if nobody follows you, remember, you're following God. He has rewards for you, doesn't he? Let us lift our eyes up and see God. Let us take our eyes off man and see God. Then let us continue the battle. We can be victorious.

Feed in winter and summer. Be instant in season and out of season, II Tim. 4:2. When you're sick, remember you have a responsibility to feed the lambs. When you don't feel like it, feed the lambs. When you're mad, upset and have a right to be, feed the lambs. Don't "bark" at them and blame them for your troubles. Make feeding the lambs the most important part of your life. You'll never be disappointed. One thing about it, you're going to feed the lambs whether you know it or not. If you aren't watchful you'll be feeding them malice, greed, envy, and many other wicked things. Be careful, and feed the lambs the food from God's Word.

Poimainto is also translated by the English word "feed".

1. John 21:16, *"He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep."*
2. 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."*
3. 1 Cor. 9:7, *"Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?"*

4. 1 Pet. 5:2, *"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;"*
5. Rev. 7:17, *"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."*

The above scriptures teach the way a pastor is to rule his church: with the Word of God. He is not to rule the church by force, except by the force of the Word of God. The pastor is not to give his church ultimatums. He is to declare the Word of God. If they refuse to hear the Word of God, then let that pastor seek the Lord's guidance. The pastor is to preach God's Word. This is the pastor's work. There is no greater work!! When the pastor is busy preaching the Word of God, lost people will either trust the Lord and be saved, or they will get mad and leave. The saved people will stay. The Word of God will be a blessing to them. It will be a help to them in their lives and they will desire the Word.

A saved person is a lamb or sheep who loves to feed on the green grass of the Word. A wolf is a lost person who wants to feed on the lamb. If the shepherd keeps feeding the lambs the Word of God, the wolf will be exposed because he doesn't enjoy the Word. So -- preaching the Word will let the sheep grow and destroy the wolf. Remember Christ will destroy the devil with the preaching of the Word. Rev. 19:15, *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

Jude 1:12, *"These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"* This verse is the picture of an ungodly pastor or church member. The verse is talking about the ungodly person and the fruits of that ungodliness, but look further and see the ungodly pastor or church member failing to feed the sheep. Here we find a wolf (lost person) who is comfortable listening to the things the pastor has to say. The lost person is actually feeding himself on the food the sheep are supposed to be getting. Do you know any churches like this? Do you know any pastors like this? Is your ministry like this?

Today most churches are no more than social gatherings. One pastor eats lunch on top of the church building because they had a record attendance. Another blows a brick off the altar with his breath. Another church is giving a bicycle to the one who brings the most visitors. Another church has a "100 club." In order to be a member of this club, one must win 100 souls to the Lord. There is nothing wrong with winning souls to the Lord, and most certainly should be done. But do we need to keep count?? Can't God count? Are we afraid God won't know about some of our converts? In churches such as we have outlined above, a lost person can really become more involved than the saved person. The saved person desires something more than games and gimmicks. He desires a direct relationship with his Father. He'll go to the church where this is provided. How we should preach Christ, so God's sheep will be fed!

Fourth

Proistemi means “be over, maintain, rule.”

This word seems to show the pastor the manner in which he’s supposed to rule. The word is used two times in the Greek New Testament.

1. Rom. 12:8, *“Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.”*
2. 1 Tim. 3:4, *“One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)”*

These verses show the seriousness of pastoring the Lord’s people. The word diligence in Rom. 12:8, simply means to try, and as any pastor knows, pastoring is a trying job, and one that must be really tried at. It takes a lot of work to be a really good pastor. It’s a 24 hours a day job.

Fifth

Hegeonai means “to lead, guide, govern.”

This word instructs the churches how they are to care for their pastor. This word appears three times in the Greek New Testament.

We now switch to a completely different point of view concerning the word “rule.” Now we leave the duties of the pastor and begin to focus on the duties of the churches toward their pastor.

1. Heb. 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.”*
2. Heb. 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.”*
3. Heb. 13:24, *“Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.”*

Notice first of all that it is imperative for the church members to know who it is that has the rule over them. In seeing this you will see that it is necessary for the church members to realize that someone *needs* to be over them. God never meant for every church member to be a church leader, or a decision making member. God meant for the church to make the decisions that are best for the church and in agreement with the Word of God. The Bible teaches in the above verses that church members are to submit themselves to their pastor (not just their preacher) (and there is a difference in a pastor and a preacher). I like to think that saved church members will do this. I like to think that saved church members will really desire to do this. Lost church members will always have a mind of their own. They will have no desire to submit themselves to anyone. They haven’t submitted themselves to God, and they will not submit themselves to a mere man, even though that man is called of God and placed in a particular place for that person’s benefit. These lost church

members believe that the only really good ideas are those ideas that come from their minds (led of Satan, of course).

Sixth

Brabeuo means to act as judge or president.

Col. 3:15, *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”* It seems to me a fitting way to close this section on rule with this verse. The word Brabeuo is found only one time in the Greek New Testament. The kind of rule all of God’s people desire is the rule of God in their hearts. This rule can be accomplished in God’s people, but not unless God’s instructions for obtaining that peace are followed. What are the instructions for obtaining this wonderful peace? Why don’t you think about the things that have been said concerning “rule”? Both the responsibility of the pastor and the responsibility of the church. By obeying these simple requirements, a peace of God can come to you. You simply can’t fight the pastor or church and have the peace of God. God never meant it to be such. He intends for the pastor and the church to work in harmony, with great love for one another. When a pastor can have confidence and respect in his church, and a church can have confidence and respect in its pastor, there can be a good deal of peace and harmony. But if a pastor doesn’t trust his church or the church doesn’t trust its pastor, there is a general feeling of uneasiness. The pastor needs to see that he is not God’s gift to this bunch of ignorant people. He needs to understand that these are God’s people. He needs to know that God is the head of His church, the pastor is not the head. He is the under shepherd. The pastor needs to understand that the church he is pastor of was in existence before he came along and will probably continue after he leaves. The pastor needs to be aware of the individual members of his congregation and try to supply the spiritual growth they individually need.

The church needs to understand their pastor is God’s man. After all, they prayed about who to get to be their pastor. They were trusting in God to send them the man to be their under shepherd. They questioned the man about his beliefs before they ever gave him the call to become their pastor, they were satisfied that this was God’s man for them. Why would the church members now change their minds? There are several reasons. Perhaps he is preaching some things they have never heard before. Perhaps he is preaching on their pet sins. Perhaps he doesn’t use the same expressions of speech they have heard all of their lives. Maybe he doesn’t visit like they think he should. Maybe he isn’t as outgoing as they think he ought to be. Maybe his children don’t act like they think a preachers kids should act. Maybe his wife is not what some of the members would call a preachers wife (whatever that is). Can church members look past all this? Can they determine (even after they have come to know their pastor) if he is God’s man for them? Do they have this ability? Yes, they do. If the church had the God given ability to call him as their pastor, they also have the God given ability to accept him as their pastor.

If a saved person can be satisfied with his church life, then the biggest part of his

life will be satisfied. If a saved person can find peace in his heart with the Almighty God, that will take care of most of his other troubles. This peace can and does come by following God's order.

WELL

The word "well" comes from the Greek word "Kalon."

The Greek word "kalon" is used 136 times in the Greek New Testament. It is translated by the English words:

1. Better.
2. Fair.
3. Good.
4. Goodly.
5. Honest.
6. Meet.
7. Worthy.
8. Well.

For the sake of space and without boring the reader, we will not give a detailed list of the use of the Greek word "kalon." Instead let this suffice. Most people have an idea of the pastors work. If you asked 100 church members what they thought the pastors work was, I'm sure you would get varying responses. Some of the things people want their pastor to do is nothing short of ridiculous. What should a poor pastor do? One thing for sure, whatever he does, somebody won't like it. This is sort of like being between a rock and a hard place.

The pastor should content himself with pleasing God and letting those dissatisfied people be dissatisfied. Let God take care of their dissatisfaction. He can handle it much better than the pastor can. The church members don't need to see a man who is trying to please them, they need to see a man that is trying to please the Lord. They'll see his failures, sure, but they'll also see his struggle to attain that perfection required of good stewards. It doesn't hurt church members to see the pastor struggling. It will rather encourage them to continue in the strait and narrow path. When they see their pastor trying, they'll know nothing is strangely wrong with them, when they must also try.

For the pastor who desires to be as good a pastor as he can, look at I Tim. 4:6, "*If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*" A very important part of being a good minister is to constantly remind your church members about false churches started by false people because they are following doctrines of demons **after** they followed the false spirit. Church members, as well as pastors, need to be reminded that it is possible for us to become unfaithful to our Savior.

II Tim. 4:1-5 gives the pastor some additional things to think about. "*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; {2} Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove,*

rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. {3} For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; {4} And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. {5} But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Many church members require a pastor to do many things that are not listed in the above verses. However, these verses clearly state the main requirements of God. Pastors must make up their minds. Will they please God or men? It is impossible to please both!

COUNTED WORTHY

This is the Greek word "Axioo." It is used 7 times in the Greek and translated by the English words:

1. Desire.
2. Think good.
3. Think worthy.
4. Count worthy.

The word reflects a degree of judgment. This will be an individual matter between that particular person and the Lord.

Desire - to think worthy - Acts 28:22 *"But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against."*

Think good - consider fitting - Acts 15:38 *"But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work."*

Think worthy - to reckon worthy.

1. Luke 7:7 *"Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed."*
2. Heb. 10:29 *"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace."*

Count worthy - to reckon worthy.

1. 2 Th. 1:11 *"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power."*
2. 1 Tim. 5:17 *"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."*
3. Heb. 3:3 *"For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house."*

You will be able to easily see by looking at the above scriptures that this is an individual matter. Some people will think one thing about their pastor, while others will think something else.

All of this will come from their past relations with pastors and their relationship with God.

That person who has had a bad relationship with a pastor will more than likely think that all pastors are “bad.” That person who has had a good relationship with a pastor will be more likely to be open and honest with their present pastor, knowing that pastors are humans and they are as prone to mistakes and sin as anybody else, but also knowing that pastors have a great burden and heartfelt desire to help people find a correct relationship with themselves and God.

A person who was raised in a family that ridiculed the church and the pastor, will have a hard time accepting the humanity of the pastor. They will almost always feel that the pastor isn't doing a good enough job, or that he ought to be doing something else, or leading the church in some other direction.

I do believe Heb. 13:17 comes into play at this point. *“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.”* We could look at all the things that a pastor is supposed to do in this verse, but right now, let us look at the things the church member is supposed to do.

Number 1 - Obey your pastor. Not in “blind obedience” as Jim Jones had his followers do, but obey them when they preach the Word of God to you. Listen to them respectfully as you would listen to the Lord himself teach you. Isn't your pastor sent to you by God? Doesn't your pastor have the Word of the Lord for you? If you don't believe your pastor is delivering God's message, then you ought to either get rid of your pastor, or get rid of yourself, according to the circumstances you find yourself in. **Never** break up a church because you don't believe the pastor is God's man. **Never** pull people over to your side against your pastor. **Always** let God deal with your pastor as it pleases him. You, as a church member, always take care of yourself, making sure you are exactly in the center of God's will. That will generally give you enough to do so that you won't have time to worry and complain about your pastor.

Number 2 - According to the above quoted verse, if your pastor has trouble pastoring and you are the cause, there will be no profit for you, (a) not in this world, (b) nor in the world to come.

(a) In this world, you'll be dissatisfied, this dissatisfaction will be visible to other church members and your own personal family. This will cause others to become dissatisfied, not only with the church and the pastor, but with other church members who agree with the pastor and his efforts. This will lead to a church split, if it is allowed to go on long enough. Your children, who are raised in your home, will not appreciate the pastor, or the church, or the faithful church members. They will seek other friends, in the world, and will probably wind up doing all kinds of wicked things, and will certainly not be faithful in church attendance, and may never be saved. This is what you'll reap in this life because you don't agree with the pastor, and begin to fight his leadership. (This is just about the same as fighting the leadership of the Lord, especially if the pastor is actually trying to follow the Lord.)

(b) In the life to come you will receive more problems. If your pastor is God sent, God will hold you accountable for how you treated him on this earth. You will stand before God at the judgment seat and give account of all things you said and did against your pastor. In that day, God will remember that you fought your pastor and church and that the pastor had much grief because of you. This will not go unnoticed. You will not receive any rewards for fighting the man of God. Those people in the Old Testament who fought the prophets of God certainly won't receive rewards for so doing. Neither will people in this day and age. Your pastor, in that day, will reveal openly (though he may never have done so on this earth) to all exactly how he felt and how you were bitter toward him and his God given work. God will judge you in that day. Also, remember when you fight God's pastor, you also fight the church of Jesus Christ. The pastor is a member of that church. The church is the body of Christ upon this earth. Therefore, you are guilty of fighting God himself. Do you think this will go unnoticed by God? No, it won't. And one day, church member, you'll wish you had been more faithful to the church and to the pastor placed in that church by God himself.

Next, we would like to consider that person's relationship with God. Nobody has ever been in a good relationship with God and in a bad relationship with God's pastor, or God's people for that matter. People that will fight God's man will also fight God. These people probably don't read their Bible, or pray to God. They might go through a ritual of prayer if they are called on in church, but that private, getting through to God prayer, they are certainly not guilty of. If they would spend some time praying to God and studying their Bibles, they would see quite a bit more of the pastor's burden and the purpose of his preaching and teaching, and how and why he conducts himself as a pastor. The petty bitterness over personalities would be done away with, because it would be realized that God gave that pastor that personality, and God intends to use that particular personality in that particular place for a particular reason. This will lead to rejoicing in that person's personality, instead of fussing about it.

DOUBLE

Double is the Greek word "diplous" - used four times in the Greek.

Two fold more - Matt. 23:15 *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."*

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

Rev. 18:6 *"Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double."*

It seems to me that it is very clear what the word "double" means. It means twice. Exactly two times one.

HONOR

The English word honor is translated from the Greek word "Time", which is used 41 times in the Greek.

The Greek word "time" is translated 32 times as honor.

1. Rom. 9:21 *"Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour."*
2. Heb. 2:9 *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."*
3. Rev. 4:9 *"And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever."*
4. Rev. 4:11 *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*
5. Rev. 5:12 *"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."*
6. Rev. 5:13 *"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."*

Many other times honor means to elevate someone or something to a greater position.

Time is used one time as sum: Acts 7:16 states, *"And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem."*

The Greek word "time" is translated by the English word "price" 8 times. Two times it refers to the honor, or price of Christ.

1. Matt. 27:6 *"And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood."*
2. Matt. 27:9 *"Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value."*

The word is used three times as the honor or price of land.

1. Acts 4:34 *"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold."*
2. Acts 5:2 *"And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet."*
3. Acts 5:3 *"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land."*

The word is used one time as the honor or price of witchcraft books. Acts 19:19 *“Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.”*

Two times, the word is used as the honor or price of our redemption.

1. 1 Cor. 6:20 *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*
2. 1 Cor. 7:23 *“Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.”*

We see that honor and price are closely related. The more honor we place on a thing, the higher price we’ll set on it. This is true with material possessions, and it’s true with spiritual possessions. It’s a small thing to pay double material possession to those who would do us service with the Word of God. Just how much value do we place on the spiritual blessings the men of God show us?

It is our honest opinion that most people today do not desire to pay double honor, or even single honor, for that matter, to their pastors. A lot of this problem goes back to the things that have been said previously. Most church members simply do not stay in close enough contact with God to realize what the church or the pastor needs. The Bible tells us that in the last days, people will be more desirous of pleasure than of the Word of God. This is certainly the time we are living in today. Many “good” church members think nothing of spending thousands of dollars on recreational equipment for themselves and their families, and yet allow nothing, or almost nothing for the recreational equipment of their own pastor. Many churches won’t even pay the pastors way to Bible conferences. I have run into many people who believe that their pastor needs some sort of recreation, and don’t mind them having it, but not at *their* expense. But if a pastor is a full time pastor, just where do these dear people think he is going to get the money to relax a little? He could get himself a job, and there tax himself even further. Also, many church members expect a pastor to always be with them in times of trouble and stress. All good pastors I know are very willing to do all they can to help their people through times of trouble. Actually, that is a definite part of the ministry. Yet the pastors expenses also need to be considered. Trips to the hospital, to visit the sick are a part of the ministry, but they must be paid for somehow. Let the church members not forget that it is expensive to raise a family today.

Before I close this particular area of thought, I feel it necessary to add one further thought, concerning those precious people who **do** realize the pastors expenses. Many times I have opened unsigned letters from church members (?) who enclose a sum of money with the thought they are praying for me. Many times church members have given us meat and vegetables that they have raised themselves. These people are those that receive the larger blessing. The Bible says that if someone gives a cup of cold water only to a minister in the name of that minister, they shall not lose their reward. One day these people will stand before the Lord at the judgment seat, and this act of kindness toward their pastor will be noted. It will not be forgotten. God has promised these people a reward which they shall not lose. These are the

kind of people that make pastoring a church of the Lord Jesus Christ a pleasure. God knows the pastors heart, and will one day reward these people for their kindness toward the man of God.

Still, after all these things, there will be some that will say I Tim. 5:17 does not mean money, it simply means to honor the position of pastor. First of all, you can't honor the position of pastor without honoring the man who holds that position, not with fleshly honor, but spiritual honor. Second, if you truly honor the position as the scripture says we ought to, you'll make sure the pastor is paid at least enough to make ends meet, so that he doesn't have to worry about paying his bills and can, with a free mind, devote himself to studying the Word of God. Many pastors (I know) spend so much time worrying (which is a sin) about how to make ends meet that they can't freely study, and when they do study, they do so with malice in their heart. God will also hold a church responsible for this.

Third, read I Tim. 5:18 which states, *"For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."* This is the very next verse. Is this verse talking about money? Sure it is. To check this out, read the reference in I Cor. 9, especially verses 1-15.

Many people don't want to pay a pastor what he is due, because they say he doesn't work very hard, and then only one day a week. The next section, on labor, will answer this objection.

LABOR

The word "labor" means to be wearied out (speaking about the pastor's burden).

No church member can know his burden, but a pastor **really** appreciates those who try to understand and help him.

There are some qualifications for double pay.

The pastor must toil at his work.

1. John 4:38 *"I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."*
2. Rom. 16:6 *"Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us."*
3. Gal. 4:11 *"I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."*

The pastor must be wearied or fatigued with his toiling in the work of God.

1. Matt. 6:28 *"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin"*
2. Luke 12:27 *"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."*
3. Luke 5:5 *"And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."*

The pastor must be wearied, which means to labor, be weary or fatigued.

1. John 4:6 *"Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour."*

The pastor must be wearied out with labor in his toiling.

1. Matt. 11:28 *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*
2. 1 Cor. 15:10 *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*
3. Eph. 4:28 *"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."*
4. Phil. 2:16 *"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."*
5. 2 Tim. 2:6 *"The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits."*

The above verses clear up a gross misunderstanding of the pastors labor. Many people think the pastor doesn't work hard because he doesn't get dirty, or punch a clock. He doesn't belong to a union, and at times may have little to show for a weeks studying and praying, and visiting the sick and the lost. The truth of the matter is that studying is exhausting work. It may not be physical work as digging a ditch, or working in a factory, but nevertheless it is hard work. At times the pastor may be seen simply sitting, looking out a window. People may think the pastor lives a life of ease, but they do not understand that he is at that moment in contact with God over a point in the sermon that **must be according to God's Word**. The pastor is responsible for teaching the exact truth, no allowances will be made for error. The pastor may not sweat in the manner of a coal miner, but nevertheless he is sweating over the Word of God for the people's sake, trying to deliver the message God's way, and not his own way.

One other thing that many people have never seen, and probably won't see even after they read this. The pastor is the one person in the church who is responsible for the long term growth of the church. The pastor is not just preaching a message for this Sunday, but he is trying to preach in such a manner that the church will continue to grow for years to come. The message the pastor preaches this Sunday doesn't end this Sunday. The message is a foundation for other messages in the future. There is an underlying purpose in each message which many church members never see. To add one more bit of material to the body of Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11,12, *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble."* One message may not mean very much, but the total sum of thousands of messages preached by one pastor to one church will in the end really mount up. If a pastor preaches three times a week - twice on Sunday, and once on Wednesday - this makes a total of 156 messages a year. In just a little over 6 years, this pastor will have delivered a total of more than 1,000 messages to his people. Does this make a difference? The pastor in this length of time, has spread his influence and personality and likes and dislikes all over his

audience. This is indeed a very serious thing. Now -- does the pastor need time to correctly prepare his messages?? Yes, he does. And this time needs to be uninterrupted by bitterness, financial worries, or church bickering. If the pastors study time is interrupted by these things, then you can be sure these same things will show up in his messages, and in time be transferred to the church membership, then you have a lot of trouble. It's very important for church members to help their pastor, don't you think?

WORD

This English word comes from the Greek "logos", which means speech, matter, reason. (A way of presenting ideas and thoughts). The word "word" is used many times in the bible and we won't have space to go into all the different meanings. But suffice to say that "word" means "Christ."

1. Mark 4:14 *"The sower soweth the word."*
2. John 1:1-4 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} The same was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. {4} In him was life; and the life was the light of men."*
3. 1 John 4:2 *"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God."*

Also the word "word" means the Bible, or the Word of God. This makes it clear that the pastor must labor in the Word of God, not in material, superficial, temporary matters.

1. Matt. 8:8 *"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."*
2. Matt. 12:37 *"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."*

This passage, taken in proper context, is saying that the pastor is to be a student of the Word of God. He is not to be a student of what men say about the Bible, but a student of the Bible itself. He is not to be guilty of bibliolatry, or of saying that the Bible contains the Word of God, but that the Bible **is** the Word of God.

Many times pastors study commentaries instead of studying the Bible. There is nothing wrong with using commentaries to get a viewpoint on a particular Bible passage, but we ought to remember that commentaries are not inspired, and that the man who wrote the commentary might be wrong. The final interpretation of a passage must be the Bible itself. 2 Pet. 1:20,21 *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* The man of God is responsible for **his** preaching, not for what somebody else said.

Many times preachers rely on poems and "sob stories" to move their audiences to action. We ought instead to rely on the Word of God being preached and the Holy

Spirit taking the Word and using it as is pleasing to God. Our illustrations ought to always point to a Biblical truth, and the illustration shouldn't be more moving (emotionally) than the truth. An illustration is always used to teach a truth, (this is why Christ used parables) they are never an end in themselves.

DOCTRINE

Doctrine is the Greek word "didaskalia", which means teaching a system of beliefs.

1. 1 Tim. 4:1 *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."* People will listen to seducing spirits before they accept the devils doctrines. People will listen to the spirit of God before they accept the doctrine of God. 2 Th. 2:10 states, *"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."*
2. 1 Tim. 4:6 *"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, wherunto thou hast attained."* A good minister knows the difference between faith and doctrine. He knows that faith is necessary, but he also knows that faith is impossible to achieve without sound doctrine. He also knows that the wrong kind of doctrine brings about the wrong kind of faith.
3. 1 Tim. 4:13 *"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."* This is the pastor's job. It is not the responsibility of the church members to make sure their pastor studies. This is between the pastor and God.
4. 1 Tim. 4:16 *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."* This verse teaches the way to "soul and body" salvation for the pastor and his church. The pastor must always be on guard against sin in his own life. This is perhaps the hardest thing to guard against. The pastor is used to seeing sin in others (he's a person, like everybody else). He sometimes gets used to preparing messages based on some sin. (This can be right, but can also be wrongly used.) However, he must remember that the devil desires to get hold of the pastor more than any other member of the church. The reason - the pastor has more influence, more **wide spread influence** than any other member of the church. If the devil can get the pastor, he also can get unwary church members and even some people in the community who are not members of any church. One wayward pastor can destroy the work of a church for years to come. The devil knows this and strives to get the pastor to follow him. This is just one more reason why the pastor needs time to be alone with the Lord.
5. 1 Tim. 6:1 *"Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed."* Here is a point that is many times overlooked. What the world thinks of our doctrines primarily lies in how we treat one another, and how we treat our pastor. Many non church goers will not accept our doctrine because they think our doctrine is what causes us to

hate and despise one another and not support our pastor properly. And the world knows what is proper support and what is not.

6. 1 Tim. 6:3 *“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness.”* The way to tell good and sound doctrine is if that doctrine exalts Christ or man. If the doctrine exalts God, then it is good, if it exalts man, then it is bad. Today, we have a doctrine that exalts the Holy Spirit, making the Holy Spirit separate and apart from God. This is a bad doctrine, and not profitable to God’s people.
7. 2 Tim. 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* There are four divisions of messages as revealed by this verse: (1) doctrine (2) reproof (3) correction, and (4) instruction in righteousness. Pastors are supposed to preach **all** of it.
8. Titus 1:9 *“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”* Sound doctrine will change even very wicked people.
9. Titus 2:1 *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”* Sound doctrine will change Godly people into better Christians.

CONCLUSION:

1 Tim. 4:6 *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”*

The above verse tells how to be a **good** minister.

The pastor’s job - Acts 6:1-4 *“And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. {2} Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. {3} Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. {4} But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”* The most important work of a pastor is to give himself continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.

The pastor is not to be a people pleaser. He may not preach what the people want to hear, but he must preach what God lays on his heart. The true pastor is a God called heavenly messenger.

Acts 6:7 *“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”* When God’s people and God’s pastors did what God told them to do, the results were twofold: (1) the disciples multiplied and (2) many priests were obedient to the faith. Some priests couldn’t stand the pressure people put on them, but they could stand the pressure God put on them. The pastor’s job is not to marry people or bury people. He is to visit the sick only when called, James 5:14 *“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”*

**NO WONDER CHURCHES ARE FALLING APART!!
PASTORS, READ JEREMIAH 23 AND WEEP!!**