

Wrong Reasons For Pastoring a Church

- I. Considering that some of you will certainly talk about the proper motivation for pastoring churches such as the ones we pastor, I want to discuss some things that should *not* motivate us to do what we do, namely:
 1. Pride
 2. Notoriety
 3. Money
- II. Pride
 1. The first evil motivation for pastoring a church is pride.
 - A. One of the qualifications for the ministry is that a potential pastor must be, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." **(1Ti 3:6)**
 - B. Pride - 1. a. A high or overweening opinion of one's own qualities, attainments, or estate, which gives rise to a feeling and attitude of superiority over and contempt for others; inordinate self-esteem.
 2. Here are some signs of pride that we have to watch out for as ministers:
 - A. Comparing ourselves with other ministers **(2Co 10:12)**.
 - B. Glorifying in our own work in our hearts (our sermons, writings, conversions, churches, etc.).
 - i. We should only glory in the cross of Christ **(Gal 6:14)**.
 - ii. Let him that glorieth glory in the Lord **(Jer 9:23-24; 2Co 10:17)**.
 - C. Boasting of our own work to others.
 - i. Commending ourselves is useless; we are only approved when God commends us **(2Co 10:18; Mat 25:21)**.
 - ii. This could include mentioning our own work in a round-about way so as to make it appear that we are not boasting.
 - iii. Let another man praise thee **(Pro 27:2; Pro 20:6; Joh 7:18)**.
 - iv. "We must also put away all notion of self-importance. God will not bless the man who thinks himself great. To glory even in the work of God the Holy Spirit in yourself, is to tread dangerously near to self-adulation. "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth," and be very glad when that other has sense enough to hold his tongue." (Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*, p. 223-224)
 - v. How we take a compliment will tell us a lot about ourselves **(Pro 27:21)**.
 - a. A suggestion is to respond to a compliment with two words: "Thank you."
 - b. If we say "Thank you", and then proceed to re-preach the sermon, boasting about our favorite parts, we are not letting another praise us.
 - c. If we try to put on a false humility and respond with a plethora of pious platitudes about how unworthy we are and how the sermon truly was a piece of trash barely worthy of the garbage can, we demonstrate our insincerity and feigned humility.
 - vi. If our work is truly meritorious, then our hearers will be sure to tell us and others about it, and therefore we don't need to.

- vii. If our work is not meritorious, why would we want to promote average work to others?
- D. Being disappointed when we do not receive compliments, or enough compliments, on our sermons is another indication of pride.
- 3. Remember, we only have this office because God enabled us **(1Ti 1:12; Eph 3:7)**.
 - A. What hast thou that thou didst not receive? **(1Co 4:7)**
 - B. We have this treasure in earthen vessels so that all the glory goes to God where it belongs **(2Co 4:7)**.
- 4. Pride goeth before destruction **(Pro 16:18)**.
 - A. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble **(Jam 4:6)**.
 - B. God hates pride **(Pro 8:13)** and a proud look **(Pro 6:16-17)**.
 - C. The fastest way to have our understanding taken from us is to gloat in our own accomplishments **(Dan 4:29-31,37)**.
- 5. We should not take the positions on issues that we do so that we can feel superior to others.
 - A. That is Phariseeism: boasting about how we are not as other men **(Luk 18:11)**.
 - B. Those who think highly of themselves despise others **(Luk 18:9)**.

III. Notoriety

- 1. The second evil motivation for pastoring a church is notoriety or popularity.
- 2. We must always be on guard against the tendency to want to have the preeminence **(3Jo 1:9)**.
 - A. The heathen want to exercise authority upon others **(Mat 20:25)**.
 - B. But it should not be so with us **(Mat 20:26-28)**.
 - C. We should endeavor to be servants and ministers, not lords over God's heritage **(1Pe 5:3)**.
- 3. Woe unto us when all men shall speak well of us! -- That's how men treat false prophets. **(Luk 6:26)**
- 4. That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination to God **(Luk 16:15)**.
- 5. Beware of loving the praise of men more than the praise of God **(Joh 12:42-43)**.
- 6. The Pharisees loved to be recognized in public places **(Mat 23:6)**.
- 7. The Pharisees loved to be called by lofty titles **(Mat 23:7)**.
 - A. Does it bother us when people call us by our first name?
 - B. It shouldn't since that's what the apostles went by.
- 8. We must always be careful to not let numbers of converts or church size be our motivation.
 - A. Never measure a preacher's success by the size of his church **(Zec 4:10)**.
 - B. By that measure, the following godly preachers were abject failures (at least on some occasions):
 - i. Noah was a preacher with seven converts **(2Pe 2:5 c/w 1Pe 3:20)**.
 - ii. Isaiah's message was rejected by 90% of his hearers **(Isa 6:9-13)**.
 - iii. Jeremiah preached and warned Israel repeatedly to no avail.
 - iv. Many of Jesus' disciples quit following him when He preached hard doctrine **(Joh 6:66-67)**.
 - a. Jesus' flock was a *little flock* **(Luk 12:32)**.
 - b. His closest disciples forsook Him **(Mar 14:50)**.
 - v. Paul was forsaken by all his followers when he was brought before Caesar **(2Ti 4:16)**.

IV. Money

1. The third evil motivation for pastoring a church is money.
2. If money is your motivation for pastoring a non-501c3 church, then you are a fool, and possibly mentally retarded.
3. Money should never be a factor in our motivation for pastoring Lordship churches, or for any decision we make.
4. Pastors who preach for the money are hirelings (**Tit 1:10-11**).
5. Men of God must flee the lure of filthy lucre and the love of money (**1Ti 6:9-11**).
6. We can't serve God and money (**Mat 6:24**).
7. A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth (**Luk 12:15**).
8. If money, numbers, or notoriety are our motivations, we will compromise truth to preserve them and we will become worthless hirelings (**Pro 28:20**).