

Positioning in the church

One of the main problems that I saw in the church was the structure and positioning of the leaders in the church. Now God said that there would be pastors, teachers and the like for the perfecting of the saints. So it's very clear that that the Lord uses various people in various ways. Not everyone is called to be a pastor and not everyone is even called to be a preacher. Is that a problem? With some it is, but not if you're God.

I remember years ago in one of the churches I attended, that every brother wanted to be a preacher. Not that it was a bad idea....unless It wasn't in Gods will for you to be one. The fact of the matter was that some had that calling of a God on their life, while others did not. Too further add salt to the wound; it was common knowledge in that organization you were a nobody unless you were a pastor (I can testify to that, being a "Worker" myself). This alone caused a whole slew of problems in and of itself.

It is sad to say but there were some pastors who were in the ministry for many years but only had a few people in church. If that wasn't bad enough, their pastor would take the opportunity to point out their failure as a minister. All this mix up because more than likely that poor man was misdiagnosed as a horrible pastor when he should have been doing something else entirely for God to begin with.

Peer pressure at its worst; so many had made up in their minds that they weren't leaving Bible College as anything other than a "Pastor." But that title also came with a price; one that would demand a full payment of dedication right off the back. As a result of their over zealousness and lack of hoary headed wisdom, many ruined themselves with all the undue stress and lack of experience. Indeed their head would be silver; but not of wisdom, but of severe stress. Hair dye anyone? Well I guess at least they tried; some went to Bible College, graduated and just stayed in the area for decades doing nothing with their calling. Talk about Dud!

Note: common sense would tell you not to pack up your belongings (whatever fits in the car) wife, children and head across country in an old car, with minimum finances, and no place to live in a new state just because you feel as though you're called to be a pastor there. Well congratulations, you get a pat on the back for hearing the Macedonian call. But who's going to answer the call when your family is crying out in distress? I sure hope you have a lot of faith to back up your ignorance, poor planning and foolishness; I guess I'll see you after conference!

This stuff happened all the stinking time, and more than likely it still goes on. Just remember that your children will remember the childhood you stripped away from them and the hell you put them through. More than likely they'll will repay you by leaving the church when they get old enough; that is unless you find a suitable person to marry them off to before they can run away. Happens all the time! Maybe they want to go through all of this just so they can tell future converts of all their struggles as a pastor and how that they will have to go through similar trials if they want God to use them.

There's a lesson in all of this; just because you went to a bible ~~seminary~~ cemetery for three years, doesn't in any way fully prepare you for the real world of pastoring. It's a whole different ball park out there and I've seen many fail and have to go back to school for retraining (which still didn't help). It made no sense at all to see so many hyped up about a calling that wasn't even theirs to begin with.

Where has Christianity escaped to these many years, and what's wrong with being a brother (member) in the church? It's always preached that there are many members in the church body, but funny how that number of members in the body are unimportant unless they get to rule with an iron fist or are the brains of the outfit. So many opportunities in Gods church stay vacant and grow void because no one wants to fill them. The younger sisters are left to fend for themselves because the elder sisters are leaving the church. And those who do stay aren't even able to help the younger since the pastor won't let them because he desires to orchestrate everything himself. This is so silly and a waste of my, your and Gods time for Christian people to be acting like this.

So now we've got all these twenty five year olds running around in every major city trying to tell someone about Jesus. That's great and all, but how many were successful is my question. Well, seeing them back at Bible College after just several months out on their field of duty really left me wondering what didn't happen with them.

It was like after every conference (and we had 2 per year) that several people would come in with the high tide and be washed up on the beach. And it's no wonder given their lack of experience; thinking that pastoring was going to be a drop in the bucket.

Most of these men were fresh out of high school when they joined the military and after a 3-4 year enlistment it was off to bible school. 2 1/2 - 3 years later...A pastor? Not to say it can't happen, and still be of God, but I highly doubt that 3 out of every 5 brothers is called to be a pastor, especially when 2 of them throw in the towel after less than a year in the ministry. Yes, that pretty much summed up the junk that was going on back when I was young and quite the bit more naive.

The following is just a bit of a typical hierarchy pertaining to Christian growth in the church. None of this is set in stone because God can use a chicken to preach, a donkey to talk and children to rule grown men. But ideally, this somewhat sums up to a degree what is expected from you and your spiritual age group. Some may also be in between groups as they progress in spiritual growth. Also note that this doesn't necessarily go by age as a default, but by spirituality, knowledge and understanding. What makes a seasoned pastor is one who has been through some things in his day; things that cause him to grow and develop into a true man of God.

Beginner level Christianity (new church member) (sits and listens)

1. Read bible
2. Pray
3. Go to church
4. Invites people to church
5. Will rely on pastor for understanding and direction
6. Little if no experience with newfound religion
7. Works on getting a better understanding about God
8. Lots of training needed

Intermediate level Christianity (established member) (listens and learns)

1. Learn scriptures/Quotes scripture
2. Soul winning (learns how to work with people who come to church) (prayer, some bible passages, shares testimony).
3. Can lead others in prayer
4. Will look to pastor for understanding and direction but understands more clearly the Lords will in their life.
5. Growing in Gods grace and knowledge, but sill inexperienced in many aspects due to a lack of longevity.
6. Works on staying saved, learning how to best implement Gods word and ways.
7. Can help in training beginner level by sharing personal experiences. A great mentor for the newer brethren.

Advanced level Christianity (clergy/teacher/elder member) (Preaches and teaches)

1. Quote scriptures
2. Apt to teach
3. Understands the voice of God most clearly

4. Prayer life
5. Leading service
6. Looks to God for understanding and direction
7. Seasoned in the scriptures and the ways of Christianity
8. Works on leading the flock (mostly pastor).
9. Helps intermediate and basic level due to vast experiences and encounters with God.