

HOW TO FIRE YOUR PASTOR – GOD’S WAY!

- I. Many church people do not know just who a pastor really is in the sight of God.
 - A. Most church people do not even know how they actually received their pastor!
 1. Some think they actually “called” their own pastor
 2. Some think they actually were “sent” their own pastor by their organization.
 - B. Very few have actually looked into the Word to find out how they actually received their pastor according to the Word of God!
 1. We need to find scripture as Acts 20:28 ***“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the HOLY SPIRIT has made you overseers (Pastors), to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”***
 - a. All pastors are placed in position as pastors over a church by the authority of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The Holy Spirit governs the shepherding of all churches.
 - c. All man can do is to pray to become in agreement with the Holy Spirit’s decision.
 2. We also need to examine Hebrews 13:17 ***“Obey those who rule over you, and to be submissive, for they watch over your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”***
 - a. We are commanded to be in obedience to our pastors.
 - b. Our obedience is in submission to their leadership, thus in submission to that of the Lordship of Jesus!
 - c. Each pastor has been given the responsibility of watching over the spiritual life of the members of the church.
 - d. A blessing of financial success is offered to all who submit to the leadership of the Pastor.
 - e. A curse of financial failure is as a warning to all who create grief for any pastor!
 - f. “for that will be unprofitable (gainless) for you!”

3. Each pastor receives a special anointing equal to that of a messenger Angel

a. Rev. 1:20 ***“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, are the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”***

b. Each pastor is called of the Holy Spirit

c. Each has a special anointing as messenger of God

d. Each pastor is assigned to a specific church for ministry

C. Note: The Word gives NO human hierarchy or authority higher than that of the pastor.

1. Many churches use an order system of higher hierarchy figures.

2. I find that the Word does not acknowledge any higher human hierarchy.

a. None over the church

b. None over the pastor

c. The Word gives no place for “watch dogs” in the church.

d. The pastor is the “overseer” of the church

e. Overseers are also called “elders”

f. The head elder being the senior overseer (Pastor)

i. Overseer of all deacons (table waiters, servants)

ii. Overseer of all board of directors

iii. Overseer of all committees

iv. Overseer of all members

g. Elders are also assistant pastors

3. Some churches have “Bishops”

a. Also the head pastor

- b. Some call them senior pastors
- 4. Paul was also called an “Apostle”
 - a. Messenger
 - b. One who is sent
 - c. One who is commissioned as an Missionary
 - d. Sometimes to a church
 - e. Romans 11:13; 1 Cor. 1:1
- D. The pastor is the shepherd of the church, but is under shepherd to Jesus!
 - 1. Crown to Pastors: I Peter 5:4 ***“But when the Chief Shepherd appears you will receive the Crown of Glory that does not fade away.”***
 - 2. Shared by all who obey and follow in submission to their pastors: Matt 10:41 ***“He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophets reward.”***

II. THE CARNAL WAY TO DEAL WITH A PASTOR BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE OFF COURSE

- A. Many are lacking personal knowledge of the Word concerning the administration of the church.
 - 1. Ekklesia – Greek for the called out assembly to a public affair.
 - a. Heb. 10:25 – “the assembled together” or “called out ones” Church universal
 - i. World wide or church universal
 - ii. Of all times
 - b. Acts 2:47 - Ekklesia used as in a church in respect to place and time.
 - i. All called by and to Christ in the fellowship of His Salvation.
 - ii. Local churches
 - iii. I Cor 6:4; 10:32

iv. Gal. 1:13

v. Phil. 3:6

2. The Church is the body of Christ.

a. Eph. 1:22,23 We are the body of Christ

b. Col. 1:18,24 Christ is the head of the church

B. Christ is the head administrator over the next in line!

1. Christ is the Chief Shepherd

2. The Pastor is the under shepherd

3. The Bible does NOT acknowledge any other office higher in the church than the Pastor!

4. The administration instructions of Christ are given to the pastor through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

5. NOT from the deacons or board of directors!

6. The pastor is to instruct the deacons and board of directors

C. Government of the church

1. The church is not set up as a democratic system of government

2. The church is to be correctly set up as a Theocratic form of government

3. The pastor is from the beginning called the "overseer"

4. I Peter 5:2 ***"Shepherding the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers (Greek – knowing the watchful care of or to provide covering for, to look after [a responsibility never given to Deacons or a Board of Directors]), not by constraint (compulsion) but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly..."***

5. Function of elder or overseer (Pastor) is two fold

i. Teaching – an overseer is to be able to teach his flock what the Word of God teaches and to give direction as to how that teaching is to be accomplished in and through the local church.

ii. Ruling – 1 Tim. 5:17 “Let the elders (overseers) who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and doctrine.

D. Many today believe some men have been given control over the pastor.

1. After all, “we” hired the pastor!
2. Since “man” hired the pastor, man can fire the pastor - right?
3. Carnal theology gives place to “watch dogs” in the church.
4. Problem: Carnal reasoning does not align up with the Word!
5. Question?
 - a. Where in the Word of God does God give man the authority for man to hire a pastor?
 - b. Better yet, where in the Word of God does God give man the authority to fire a pastor?

C. Possible Ramifications of man firing the pastor!

1. Man needs to learn a basic principal of the position of the office of Pastor.
 - a. Any person holding an office of Pastor for any length of time will acquire a faithful following!
 - c. A faithful following who will stand by the pastor at all cost (only unless the pastor performs an outright sinful deed known to all the church.)
 - d. To take any action by a few watch dogs against the pastor will set the church up for a church split!
 - e. Neither side will be in alignment with the Word of God.
 - f. Any action against the pastor will be against the Word of God.
 - g. I Samuel 26:9-11 **“(9) (David speaking) ...who can stretch out his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?” (11) The Lord FORBID that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord’s anointed.”**

- h. Like the Pastor or not, now that he is in the position of pastor, he is God's anointed!
- 3. As God did not give David nor any prophet the "authority" to remove sinful Saul.
- 4. God gives no man today the authority to remove the pastor!
- 5. It is God's place to deal with any Pastor not performing according to the Word
- 6. Any action of man will without doubt result in a church split!

III. THE GRACE WAY TO DEAL WITH A PASTOR BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE OFF COURSE.

- A. Steps to guard against the pastor going off course
 - 1. I Tim. 5:17 – Paul says to give the pastor "double Honor"
 - 2. To give honor is to make sure, when his name is spoken of, that it is spoken of in his honor!
 - 3. You can honor the position if not the man!
 - 4. Luke 6:27-28 ***"(27) Do good to those who hate you" (28) Bless those who curse you, AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SPITEFULLY USE YOU!"***
 - a. Send a card of appreciation.
 - b. Find something to do for the pastor to help him.
 - c. Bless him with something of monetary value.
 - d. Spend time praying for the pastor when you feel he is against you, if only for the office of pastor.
 - i. The Word does not teach you can pray for anyone to be changed.
 - ii. You can only pray for situations to be changed.
 - e. The Word teaches we can only pray for ourselves to be changed.
 - 5. If it is believed by some that a group prayer should be held, set the rules.
 - a. Set definite Biblical rules

- b. Can only pray for the pastor to be blessed!
- c. Cannot pray for the pastor to be moved or changed!
- d. Can only pray for self to be changed.
- e. Each participant should pray that they would be the member GOD requires them to become.
- f. Remember that someone will learn of your prayer meeting concerning the pastor!
- g. When ask if such a meeting is being held, admit that it is
- h. And be quick to inform them that all are praying for God to bless the pastor,
- i. Ask if they would like to join the prayer meeting to bless the pastor.
- j. If they come, they will learn ...
- k. The rules of prayer; are only to bless.
- l. And that you are indeed praying to bless the pastor
- m. What can they report to the pastor now?

6. Possible Ramifications of praying for the pastor!

- a. The people praying might have own hearts changed.
- b. Revivals have started like this.
- c. God will desire to honor these kind of prayers of his church
- d. What if God feels he cannot honor these kinds of prayers?
- e. If God feels God cannot honor the prayers, God knows how to change or move the pastor.
- f. When God moves a pastor, the unity of the church is still intact!
- g. By praying God's way a spirit of love and respect is maintained in the church.
- h. Remember that God WILL honor the prayer of righteous and fervent praying Saints. James 5:16

