

HOW TO HELP YOUR PASTOR.

Challenge Xtra! September 2011

It is a downright shame, it is absolutely sinful, the way many professing Christians treat their Pastors. One of the curses of our churches today is the way many faithful Pastors are subjected to abuse by their own members. Now, we realize that there are some preachers who are not true to the Lord. Even then, many of the things which go on are unchristian and there is no excuse for it. At least deal with things "decently and in order," that is according to the Word of God. The Word says, many are weak, others are sickly, and some God takes away because they have abused the Lord's Table. We wonder how many God has so dealt with because they abused their Pastor and did great harm to the Church of Christ? For the sake of Christ and His Church, we would like to give you some ways to help your Pastor…and the Church and yourself.

- **1.TREAT YOUR PASTOR WITH RESPECT.** Would you treat your doctor, your lawyer, the way you treat your Pastor? God says, "Esteem them very highly for their works sake."
- **2. PRAY FOR HIM FAITHFULLY.** Quite a few "**prey**" on the Pastor but do not **pray for** him. Even the great Apostle Paul asked for the prayers of God's people. II Thessalonians 3:1. Satan always attacks the leadership. There is no better way to disrupt the work.
- **3. FOLLOW YOUR PASTOR.** We are not advocating that God's people blindly follow just anyone. But there are many good men, with faults to be sure, who are truly serving the Lord. God Himself ordained the Shepherd (Pastor-sheep) relationship. Only one can lead; the rest are to follow. Hebrews 13:17. The big problem: SELF WILL!
- **4. OBEY YOUR PASTOR AS HE TEACHES YOU THE WORD.** While some may Lord it over the flock, but that is not true of many; even if a man does, you've no right to take things into your own hands. Few men want to be your boss, they do want to be what God called them to be your Pastor. Learn to submit (Hebrews 13:17).
- **5. DO NOT SPEAK AGAINST OR LISTEN TO GOSSIP ABOUT YOUR PASTOR.** This is one of the great sins of God's people. God will surely judge it! The Word says, "Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses."
- **6. ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR.** We do not believe in flattery, nor do we want it. But what is wrong with a kind word, a word of encouragement, or even some deed of kindness? Do you appreciate such treatment? Remember, "**Do unto others...**"
- **7. SUPPORT HIM FINANCIALLY.** It is pretty hard to keep your mind on your work when you have difficulty caring for your family. In many places, most members are doing pretty well while their God-appointed leader is barely making it. I Timothy 5:17,18.
- **8. BE SYMPATHETIC WITH YOUR PASTOR.** He is made of flesh and blood just like you are. So are his wife and children. Even Moses or Paul would not be able to please some churches.
- **9. GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.** Other than seeing you saved, nothing will please your Pastor more than this. III John 4.
- **10.DO WHATEVER YOU CAN IN THE LORD'S SERVICE.** You will thus help your Pastor, yourself and your Church. This is why we're all here...to serve Christ and build up His Church. BELOVED, "IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS, HAPPY ARE YE IF YE DO THEM."