

PREACHER - ELDER RELATIONSHIP. Introduction:

1. This relationship...preacher elder relationship... is not easy even at best. be
 1. For this relationship to 'such as would be enjoyed to the fullest between the preacher and the elders there is much hard work to do.
 2. You do not come by this highly developed relationship accidentally. It must be worked out with much prayer and I might add much tolerance on occasion by the preacher and the elders.
 3. This relationship does not come as easily as the marksmanship of the Arkansas hillbilly.
 1. He walked through the woods shooting at targets.
 2. People observed that he hit the bull's eye every shot and inquired how he learned to shoot so accurately? His reply:
 1. That is easy just fire the shot and then draw the circle around the bullet hole.
 2. A good, happy, profitable preacher-elder relationship does not come that easy.

MISUNDERSTANDING A GREAT HINDERANCE

1. Some people do not understand really what the work of the preacher is no more than they understand what the work of the elder is.
 1. In a congregation the preacher was suggested by some of the members to become an elder.
 1. A member inquired of the preacher: What do you expect to do if you become an elder?
 2. The preacher replied: I do not know that I will do very much of anything that I am not doing now.
 3. The member replied: I knew that you could not do two jobs and that disqualifies you.
 2. A big part of the time the preacher is doing the work of an elder in addition to all the other work he is called upon to do.
 3. He may be qualified to serve as an elder and actually does the work of an elder but it just will not do to call him an elder, assuming of course he is otherwise qualified to be an elder.

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THE PREACHER AND THE ELDER

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WHAT THE PREACHER - ELDER RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE:

1. The relationship between the elders of the church and the preacher should be one of mutual cooperation.
 1. They should counsel together, plan the work and work the plan together.
 2. Neither elders or preachers should seek, or even desire, to excel the others.
 3. They should work as a team, each engaging in that portion of the work for which he is responsible.

THINGS THAT WILL MAR THIS RELATIONSHIP...PERHAPS DESTROY WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A PLEASANT AND MOST PROFITABLE RELATIONSHIP.

1. The new preacher arrives and any existing program must be changed and often done away with entirely in order for the newly arrived preacher to set up his own program.
 1. In case the program does not work then there will be a strained elder - preacher relationship.
2. Often times the preacher is more popular with the congregation than are the elders. Why is this so?
 1. He is before the congregation in a far greater measure than are the elders.
 2. Many times except for "yes" and "no" the preacher is the only one really doing the work of a shepherd.
 1. Be it remembered that it may become necessary for the elders to say "yes" or "no" as the case may demand.
3. The nature of the preacher's work brings him in close contact with the members:
 1. He visit with and prays with and for the sick.
 2. He marries their children and preaches funerals for loved ones who have passed on.
 3. He referees their disputes and misunderstandings and counsels with them in all problems.
 4. He is the one who has spoken unto them the word of God.
 5. The preacher is the one whose faith the members are to follow considering the end of his conversation: his manner of life. Heb. 13:7

WHAT THE PASTOR - LESSER MEMBERS SHOULD BE

1. The relationship between the elders of the church and the preacher should be one of mutual respect and cooperation.
2. They should counsel together, plan the work and work the plan together.
3. Neither elder or preacher should seek or even desire to excel the other.
4. They should work as a team, each carrying in that portion of the work for which he is responsible.

LET US REMEMBER THAT WHILE THIS RELATIONSHIP IS IDEALLY THAT WHICH SHOULD BE A PLEASANT AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

1. The new preacher arrives and any existing program must be changed and often done away with entirely in order for the newly arrived preacher to set up his own program.
2. In case the program does not work then there will be a second elder - preacher relationship.

1. Often times the preacher is more popular with the congregation than are the elders. Why is this so?
1. It is before the congregation in a far greater measure than are the elders.

2. Many times except for "yes" and "no" the preacher is the only one really doing the work of a shepherd.
1. Be it remembered that it may become necessary for the elders to say "yes" or "no" as the case may demand.

3. The nature of the preacher's work brings him in close contact with the members:
 1. He visits with and prays with and for the sick.
 2. He marries the children and preaches funerals for loved ones who have passed on.
 3. He advises their disputes and misunderstandings and counsels with them in all problems.
 4. He is the one who has spoken more than the word of God.
2. The preacher is the one whose faith the members are to follow considering the part of his conversation; his manner of life, etc. (1:1)