

## Practical Theology Pastoral Priorities

What are the minimum Biblical qualifications for a Pastor?

What spiritual gift(s) must a pastor have?

What spiritual gift(s) would be helpful, but not required for a pastor to have?

What should a pastor do if he does not have one of these helpful spiritual gifts?

What priorities has God set for every pastor?

Ephesians 4:11-13

1 Peter 5:1-3

Acts 20:28-31

Matthew 28:16-20

What additional priorities might be placed on a pastor? Who places those priorities upon him?

What is the relationship of his particular spiritual gifts with those additional priorities?

What is the relationship of his job description to those additional priorities?

What is the relationship of congregational expectations to those additional priorities?

What is the relationship with pastoral priorities and the general priorities God gives to every man, to every husband, to every father?

How should a pastor deal with people who have expectations of him that are either unbiblical or unreasonable?

How should a pastor deal with people that are a danger to the flock? i.e. flagrantly and stubbornly ungodly; heretical; cause ungodly division in the congregation; etc.

### **Scenarios**

Your church leadership is concerned about how you are spending your time. They do not have a specific complaint other than you do not do / accomplish the same things they know other pastors do. What should your attitude be in responding? How can you help them understand the priorities you believe God has given to you? How can you gain their help in areas in which you may be weak?

The following list is typical of pastoral duties and normal activities in a given week. How many hours a week you would give to each in a normal week. Mark with a + those things might become a temporary priority depending on the situation, and an \* those that might be reduced or eliminated if necessary. Be prepared to explain your reasoning

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| _____ Sermon preparation for Sunday morning. | _____ Personal Devotions                       |
| _____ Weeknight Bible study preparation      | _____ Discipleship of new believer             |
| _____ Discipleship / training leaders        | _____ Bulletin information preparation         |
| _____ Email / Mail correspondence            | _____ Church Calendar (short term planning)    |
| _____ Long term planning                     | _____ Music choices for worship services       |
| _____ On going Counseling                    | _____ Church finances                          |
| _____ Crises Counseling                      | _____ Other church administration              |
| _____ Visitation                             | _____ Family night / activity                  |
| _____ Funeral                                | _____ Putting kids to bed                      |
| _____ Household chores & repairs             | _____ Helping kids with schoolwork             |
| _____ Meeting with Deacons - church maint.   | _____ Meeting with Elders - church shepherding |
| _____ Personal time with wife                | _____ Sleep & Personal hygiene                 |
| _____ Exercise                               | _____ Recreation / Entertainment               |
| _____ General Reading (including news)       | _____ Extended family function                 |
| _____ Other _____                            |  |

You have planned a special activity with your family. An hour before you are supposed to leave, you get a call from a woman in your church who is frantic because her husband is threatening to leave her. What will you do?

You have planned a date night with your wife. Just before you leave, you get a call from someone in your congregation to let you know that their spouse had an accident and 1) is at the hospital to be checked out, 2) is in the hospital in serious condition, 3) has just died.

What would your response be to each of the following complaints / suggestions

- You did not come to the funeral of my father in New Jersey
- You did not visit me when I was in the hospital (Note: you did not know they were in the hospital)
- You did not come visit me at my home (without an invitation)
- You did not meet the need of Mrs X who is poor and needs financial help
- I had a conflict with Mrs ABC, and you did not take my side in confronting her
- You are too intellectual, my children do not understand your sermons
- Why can't you be more casual? Your wearing a suit when you preach makes me feel uncomfortable
- You should not spend your money on \_\_\_\_\_ ! That is wasting the Lord's money.
- You should buy \_\_\_\_\_ . You need it / You could use it / We have one / It's a good investment
- You take the Bible too literally / You are too conservative / You are too judgmental about sin
- Why do you grow a garden? (I disapprove of your hobby. You should do something else)

The ministry has been going well, but your family is showing signs of the stresses that it has placed upon you and them. What are some practical things you can do to protect your family from ministry intrusions? How can you keep your own life properly balanced between God's priorities for you and your family and His priorities in sacrificially serving Him in the church?