

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 of 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 a pastor is spending his time. They do not have a specific complaint other than he does not do / accomplish the same things they know other pastors do. What should the attitude of a pastor be in responding? How can the pastor help them understand the priorities he believes God has given to him? How can he gain their help in areas in which he 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 which 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

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

A pastor has planned a special activity with his family. An hour before he is supposed to leave, he gets a call from a woman in his church who is frantic because her husband is threatening to leave her. What would you do if you were in his shoes and why?

A pastor has planned a date night with his wife. Just before they leave he gets a call from someone in his congregation to let him 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. How should he respond in each of these situations? How would you respond if you were in his shoes and why?

What would a pastor respond to each of the following complaints / suggestions

- You did not come to the funeral of my father held in a location several hours from here
- 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 the pastor's family is showing signs of the stresses that it has placed upon him and them. What are some practical things you can do to protect a pastor and his family from ministry intrusions? How can he keep his own life properly balanced between God's priorities for him and his family and in sacrificially serving others in the church?