

Take Advantage of Your Pastor

- I. Your pastor is a gift from God to your church (**Eph 4:8, 11**).
 1. God gave you a pastor after His own heart to feed you (**Jer 3:15**).
 2. Your pastor is God's ambassador that He sent to you with a message (**2Co 5:20**).
 - A. In Biblical times God delivered His word through His prophets (**Heb 1:1; 2Pe 1:21**).
 - B. Today God manifests His word through preaching (**Tit 1:3**).
 3. You should receive your pastor as an angel of God (a messenger from God) (**Gal 4:14**).
 4. Your pastor is a "man of God" (**2Ti 3:17**).
 5. Your pastor is a good soldier of Jesus Christ (**2Ti 2:3**).
- II. Your relationship with your pastor should be one of *give* and *take*.
 1. You should *give* to your pastor the following:
 - A. Your love
 - i. You should esteem your pastor very highly *in love* (**1Th 5:13**).
 - ii. The way you show your pastor that you truly love him is by loving God and keeping His commandments (**1Jo 5:2**).
 - iii. Sometimes the more your pastor loves you, the less you will love him (**2Co 12:15 c/w Rev 3:19**).
 - iv. Don't become his enemy when he tells you the truth (**Gal 4:16**).
 - B. Your respect
 - i. You should hold him in reputation because of his work (**Php 2:29-30**).
 - ii. You should *esteem him very highly* in love for his work's sake (**1Th 5:12-13**).
 - iii. Address him respectfully; entreat him as a father; never rebuke him (**1Ti 5:1**).
 - C. Your obedience
 - i. You should obey your pastor whom God has given the rule over you (**Heb 13:17**).
 - ii. You should obey what he teaches you not only when he's watching, but also when he is not (**Php 2:12**).
 - D. Your attention
 - i. Be swift to hear what he has to say (**Jam 1:19**).
 - ii. Consider what he says (**2Ti 2:7**).
 - iii. When you go to church, be ready to listen (**Ecc 5:1**).
 - E. Your prayers
 - i. Your pastor needs your prayers (**1Th 5:25**).
 - ii. Your prayers can be his salvation (**Php 1:19**).
 - F. Your encouragement and support
 - i. Encourage your pastor by telling him that you are praying for him.
 - ii. Tell him what you learned from him and how you are making changes in your life based on it.
 - iii. Support him when he makes a decision or a judgment call in the church.
 - iv. Tell him that you're behind him.
 - G. Your time
 - i. Present your body a living sacrifice in God's house (**Rom 12:1**).

- ii. Where you spend your time will tell your pastor a lot about you.
 - H. Your money
 - i. Your pastor should be able to support himself and his family from your financial support (**1Co 9:13-14**).
 - ii. He rules well and labors in the word and doctrine and therefore is worthy of double honor (**1Ti 5:17**).
 - iii. Don't muzzle your ox (**1Ti 5:18**).
- 2. You should *take* from your pastor the following:
 - A. His teaching and instruction
 - i. Your pastor is a teacher (**Act 15:35**).
 - ii. God has given him that aptitude (**2Ti 2:24-25**).
 - iii. Teach - II. To show by way of information or instruction. 5. to teach a thing: To impart or convey the knowledge of; to give instruction or lessons in (a subject); †to make known, deliver (a message).
 - iv. His teaching is a gift to you from God (**Eph 4:11**).
 - B. His rebuke, reproof, and admonition
 - i. It's your pastor's job to rebuke and reprove you (**2Ti 4:2**).
 - ii. If you're wise, you'll love him for it; if you're a fool, you'll hate him for it (**Pro 9:8-9**).
 - C. His counsel and advice
 - i. If you're wise, you will seek your pastor's counsel (**Pro 1:5**).
 - ii. Fools don't go to their pastor for counsel when making important decisions (**Pro 12:15**).
 - iii. Your purposes will be disappointed if you don't get counsel (**Pro 15:22**).
 - iv. There is safety in seeking counsel from your pastor (**Pro 11:14**).
 - v. I have sought other pastors' counsel and advice many times.
 - D. His wisdom
 - i. Your pastor is a wise man.
 - ii. He has a lot of experience that you can learn from.
 - iii. Take advantage of having a wise, experienced pastor to learn from.
 - E. His example
 - i. Your pastor is your example of what a Christian should be (**1Ti 4:12**).
 - ii. He is your pattern (**Tit 2:7**).
 - iii. Follow his faith (**Heb 13:7**).
- III. Your pastor's primary job is to feed and protect you spiritually.
 - 1. Pastor - 1. A herdsman or shepherd. 2. A shepherd of souls; one who has the spiritual oversight over a company or body of Christians, as bishop, priest, minister, etc.; *spec.* the minister in charge of a church or congregation, with particular reference to the spiritual care of his 'flock'.
 - 2. He feeds the sheep as well as the lambs (**Joh 21:15-17**).
 - 3. He gives strong meat to the mature and milk to the babes (**Heb 5:12-14**).
 - 4. Take advantage of all of the teaching your pastor has to offer.
 - A. Go to church
 - i. This is where he focuses his energy preaching the word.
 - ii. Try to be there as much as possible.
 - iii. Go ready to learn.

- a. Get enough sleep on Saturday night.
 - b. Get up early enough to get to church early without rushing.
 - c. Print the outline ahead of time if it's available.
 - d. Use the outline to make quick notes during the sermon that you can go back to later.
 - e. Circle verses and draw a line between them to remind yourself to write the cross references in your Bible later.
 - f. Review the outline during your Bible reading in the coming days and write the cross-reference verses in the margin of your Bible.
- iv. Focus on what's being taught (**Pro 4:20**).
- v. Don't let your mind wander (**Pro 17:24**).
- vi. Try to commit what you hear to memory (**Pro 4:5**).
- vii. After the sermon, give your pastor feedback on what you learned, and ask questions on anything you didn't understand.
- viii. Talk with your spouse on the way home about the sermon.
- ix. Quiz your children on the way home to find out what they learned.
- B. Go to Bible study.
 - i. Pastors teach in both public (church) and private (Bible study) settings (**Act 20:20**).
 - ii. By going to the Bible studies, you are taking advantage of all of the teaching of your pastor.
 - a. If you were a shepherd, what would you think if your sheep only showed up to every other feeding?
 - b. Might you be concerned that they are sick because of their lack of appetite?
 - iii. Ask your pastor questions after Bible study if you have any.
 - iv. Make him work for his money!
- C. Read his blogs.
 - i. If your pastor writes a blog, make time to read it.
 - ii. His thoughts can be conveyed differently in writing than in speech, so his writing will provide you with additional insights.
 - iii. If you learn better by reading, then reading what your pastor writes is a great opportunity to learn more of God's truth.
 - iv. Give him feedback on his blogs to encourage him.
- 5. Receive your pastor's teaching and *do what he preaches* from the scripture.
 - A. Be doers of the word and not hearers only (**Jam 1:22**).
 - B. If you do the doctrine of Christ, your life will be built on a sure foundation (**Mat 7:24-27**).
 - C. If you don't do what your pastor preaches, God may take him away from you (**Eze 33:31-33**).
 - D. The Jews didn't receive the preaching of Jesus Christ and His apostles (**Joh 1:11; Mat 23:34**).
 - i. As a result, they lost their church, and it was given to the Gentiles (**Mat 21:42-43; Rom 11:11**).
 - ii. If it happened to them, it can happen to you; be not highminded but fear (**Rom 11:20-21**).