

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and **chasten**: be zealous therefore, and repent.

The way you live your life does make a difference in your witness. I believe this can also be applied to us corporately, as a church. Consider these truths evidenced and taught in the Bible:

1. *Our lives will be **noticed**.* Matthew 5:16
2. *Our lives **can attract** people, drawing them to the Word of God.*
Titus 2:8, 10; 1 Peter 3:15
3. *Our lives **can hinder** the reception of the message.*
1 Timothy 5:14; 6:1; Titus 2:5

1 Peter 2:12-15

¹² Having your **conversation** honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

¹⁵ For so is the **will** of God, that with **well doing** ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

2 Peter 2:2

² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of **truth** shall be **evil spoken of**.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

¹⁴ Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the **savour** of **his knowledge** by us in every place.

¹⁵ For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

¹⁶ To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?

Berean Baptist Church, Lafayette IN

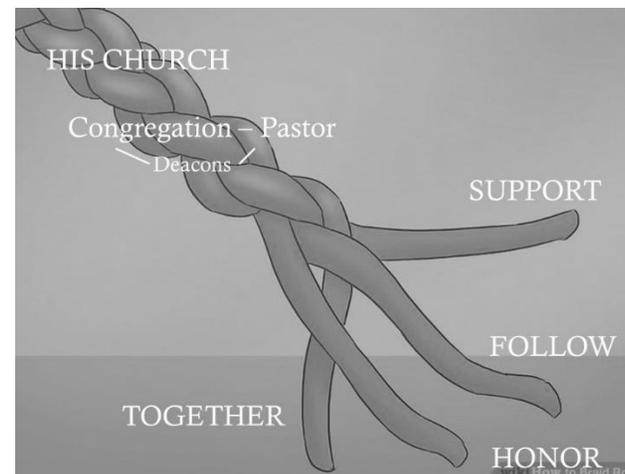
Midweek Time in the Word – September 2, 2020

Timely Truths for the Church, About the Church
THE CONGREGATION ENGAGING PASTORAL LEADERSHIP
A Closer Look at Four Aspects
INTERTWINED

The following is meant to take the church a little deeper in thought, but not an exhaustive treatment of all the New Testament data. The choice of a pastor should carry great importance, but the choices which follow that call are also of vital importance.

How the church congregation engages their pastor affects his ministry, your life, and the fruit of the church as a whole. We know in a general but definite sense that obedience to God's Word brings blessing and His "hand" resting on us. If we desire that blessing, we need to be attentive to His Word regarding the church.

The workings and interrelationships of the components of the local church are intertwined.



- It is difficult to separate the twines from the whole.
- Weaknesses or absence of a component or components weakens the whole.

With the importance of these relationships in the workings of the church and the things fighting against us following them (the sin nature, the world, our enemy), we need to underscore the vital nature of every member maintaining a walk with Christ in the Spirit.

John 15:5

⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Galatians 5:16-17

¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Challenge to our Thinking:

- Do not think: Guilt over past failures.
- Do not think: Reasonings for not following.
- Think: Pursuit This is the direction that by God's strengthening grace, I will / we will head.

Philippians 3:12-14

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 5:17-18

¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer *is* worthy of his reward.

Acts 6:2-4

² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. ³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

1 Timothy 5:19

¹⁹ Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

WHAT THE CONGREGATION DOES IMPACTS THE CONGREGATION

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

- God's designed ministry of the shepherd is not received.

HOW THE CONGREGATION AND PASTOR RELATE IMPACTS THE CHURCH AS WHOLE

When the relationship between components is out of balance it leads to discontent, contention, division ..., all impacting the mission of the church.

Consider Revelation 2,3 - what was happening in the local church, if not repented of, would have consequences to the church as a whole.

Revelation 2:5

⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

WHAT THE CONGREGATION DOES IMPACTS THE PASTOR AND HIS WORK

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, **that they may do it with joy, and not with grief:** for that *is* unprofitable for you.