

Relating To My Pastor

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As a preface to this teaching, let me share this thought with you: Any Pastor who gets a RUSH or KICK out of being in authority was, at worst, never really called by God to be a pastor in the first place, or at best, he has lost his humbleness and brokenness before God and has allowed himself to become lifted up in pride. Pastoring is all about RESPONSIBILITY; the authority of God is only there to assist in fulfilling the awesome responsibility and sacred privilege of LEADING and FEEDING God's own people.

Your PASTOR is not your PAL. Your pastor is your friend, but there must be a bit of healthy separation in the relationship for you to receive from his ministry. The moment your pastor becomes your BUDDY in your own heart, you can no longer receive much from the anointing on his life. God didn't give you a pastor be CHUMMY with, but to be a MENTOR, a spiritual ROLE MODEL. Yes, your pastor is just as human as you are, but He is CALLED and SEPARATED according to the scripture, so that God can minister to you through his life. An uncommon measure of RESPECT is necessary for the Shepherd-Sheep relationship to thrive. Often after a period of time passes, a person becomes too FAMILIAR with his or her pastor and then accidentally begins to relate to their pastor as a PAL, a CHUM, or just another Christian friend on their same level. But this is a mistake. You should love your pastor and your pastor should love you, but don't let the relationship become CASUAL and thereby miss the blessing God intends. You and your pastor should feel naturally comfortable in one another's presence and be able to enjoy sweet fellowship. Friend, yes! But Pal, no.

Hebrews 13:17 NIV - Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NIV - Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

There is a DIFFERENCE between a believer and a PASTOR... NOT a difference of VALUE or IMPORTANCE to God... NOT a difference of being loved by God... BUT a difference in Kingdom Authority... a difference of CALLING and FUNCTION in the body of Christ... a difference of RESPONSIBILITY in the house of God. There is a SEPARATION!

Romans 1:1 KJV - Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, SEPARATED unto the gospel of God.

1 Chronicles 23:13 KJV - The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was SEPARATED, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.

Does God love a father or mother more than a child? Of course not. Is a child of EQUAL VALUE to God as his parents? Yes! BUT... a child is NOT of equal AUTHORITY and RESPONSIBILITY as his parents. Therefore, God instructs children to obey their parents. It is the same in the Kingdom of God. Everyone in the church is of EQUAL VALUE, but NOT everyone in the church is of equal authority and anointing.

Numbers 12:8b KJV - Wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

The existence of AUTHORITY in this universe is for SAFETY and ORDER. Differing levels of authority DO NOT DIMINISH anyone's equal worth, but rather furnish a structured environment for everyone to flourish and

grow.

Paul the apostle told Timothy the pastor in *Titus 2:15 NLT*, "You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say."

2 Corinthians 10:8 NLT - I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But our authority builds you up; it doesn't tear you down. So I will not be ashamed of using my authority.

Whoever is the FEEDER of the local church is the LEADER of the local church. God has never asked a person who is not called to the five-fold ministry to lead his church. Only someone appointed by God with an anointing to FEED his sheep is qualified to LEAD his sheep. It is out of divine order when non-called, non-separated believers run a local church. When people who are not called, anointed and separated by God into the ministry try to run a local church, the Bible calls it "offering strange fire." (See Leviticus 10:1) This is why many churches lose the touch of God and forfeit the power of God in their midst... the leadership of the church has been inadvertently turned over to the laymen.

As someone has noted, "When God has a plan, God has a man." (NOT... "When God has a plan, God has a committee.")

Can you imagine how tragic it would be if John 3:16 read as follows: "God so loved the world that He gave a committee..."

When God wanted to save the world He sent His one and only Son.

When God wanted to deliver the Israelites, He sent Moses.

When God wanted to raise up a king with his own heart, He raised up David.

When God wanted to build a temple, He chose a man named Solomon.

When God wanted to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines, He raised up a single judge in every successive generation... Deborah, Gideon, Samson, etc.

When God wanted to take His people into the promised land, God tapped a man named Joshua to do it.

When God wanted to deliver the Israelites from Baal worship, He raised up Elijah.

When God wanted to establish the Gentile church, He appointed and anointed Paul.

NOTE: When God wanted to do anything in the Bible, He never appointed a BOARD, a COMMITTEE, or a CONGRESS to do it. He appointed a MAN, a SINGLE PERSON. Certainly boards and committees have their place in society and even in the local church, but they should NEVER EVER replace or rebel against God's way of governing through the Man of God. God doesn't lead by deliberation, popularity, recent trends or voting. God leads through giftedness! If it is not God's own GIFTEDNESS doing the leading, then it is mere natural men substituting. The GIFT makes room for the leader. A touched mouth is still the acid test of God's calling on a person. It is a tragedy when the local church is run by WANNA-BE's instead of CALLED-TO-BE's.

Question: What is an associate pastor or assistant pastor? Answer: Another called minister whom God has assigned to the senior minister, to uphold his arms in the spirit of Aaron and Hur. (See Exodus 17:12)

The Significance Of The Man Of God in Scripture:

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting (lacking, unfinished, left undone), and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.

De 33:1 And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.

1Sa 2:27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD...

1Sa 9:6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass...

1Ki 13:6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

1Ki 17:24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

2Ki 4:7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

2Ki 4:9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. (NOT ALL GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THAT DISCERNING.)

I. WITHOUT A MAN OF GOD, THERE IS NO DIVINE ORDER. Order is the accurate arrangement of things and people. *Titus 1:5 KJV - For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting (lacking, unfinished, left undone), and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.*

II. Note that only a SPIRITUAL LEADER can ordain another SPIRITUAL LEADER. Ordination can never be upward but must be downward, or at least, sideward. Deacons cannot ordain a pastor. A lay board of some type cannot ordain a man of God.

III. The SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE of a man of God.

A. Just the PRESENCE of a man of God begins to set things in divine order.

1. Like a State Trooper driving down the highway. Doesn't have to flash his lights or sound his siren. But everyone suddenly drives the speed limit and is conscientious of their driving habits.

2. Moses coming back to the camp.

3. Providence Baptist Church.

4. Why? Because the man of God has a greater measure of Kingdom Authority than the rest. *Joh 3:27 - John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

B. The DECISIONS of the man of God further set things in divine order.

C. The PRAYERS of the man of God set things in divine order. (Never ever underestimate the special power and divine authority of a pastor's prayer.)

D. The ACTIONS of the man of God set things in divine order.