

FIVE FEARS OF PASTORS

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Of the many pastoral responsibilities and duties, there are five that, taken to an extreme, can prove detrimental to church multiplication. Many pastors will not allow unpaid or uneducated church members to perform these five pastoral duties or take responsibility for other believers' spiritual welfare.

Pastors are responsible to the Lord to safeguard:

- 1) **Sound doctrine.** Pastors fear that those poorly taught will veer from the truth. However, it is usually seminary graduates who devise and perpetrate false doctrine. Poorly taught believers want to learn good doctrine.
- 2) **Unity of the body.** Pastors fear that the immature will cause factions. However, it is usually mature believers who are not allowed to exercise their gifts who do so anyway. Believers whom pastors mentor usually remain loyal.
- 3) **Quality ministry.** Pastors fear that their church members are unable to serve in a respectable manner. However, warm human relations remain more important to folk than skillful performance. Many believers are willing to perform pastoral duties when shown how to do so.
- 4) **Financial integrity.** Pastors fear that there will not be enough money for themselves, if others become ministers. However, when others minister, more folk become believers and mature disciples, so that giving increases.
- 5) **Avoid persecution.** Pastors fear that persecution will increase, if believers try to do ministry outside their chapel. However, believers attending a chapel draw more persecution than many home groups. Fast spreading house church leaders can enjoy more freedom than do clergymen.

The secret to safeguarding these five qualities, while raising up many unpaid workers, is for pastors to empower and to mentor them personally, enabling them to mentor other workers, in turn.