

The Doctrine of Pastoral Appreciation

1. Improper devotion to Pastors amounts to idolatry and results in schisms (1st Cor. 1:11,12).
 - a. Pastoral idolatry is encouraged by prideful pastors who are pursuing their own personal glory (Matt. 23:6,7).
 - b. Humble pastors understand that there is only One Teacher (Matt. 23:8,11,12).
 - c. Peter highlighted the importance for Pastors to not lord their authority over the flock, but to set the example of humility for the flock (1st Pet. 5:3-6).
2. Proper appreciation for Pastors consists of three elements (1st Thess. 5:12,13).
 - a. Know them. οἶδα #1492: *to know; be intimately acquainted with; to respect or honor; to take an interest in someone (care for someone)*. Not because they deserve it, but because their work benefits you.
 - 1) They diligently labor. κοπιᾶω #2872: *to grow weary, to labor with wearisom effort*.
 - 2) They stand in front of you in the Lord. πρόστημι #4291: *to set or place before*.
 - 3) They admonish you. νουθετέω #3560: *to admonish, warn*.
 - b. Esteem them very highly in love. ἠγάπησεν #2233: (in a thinking context) *to think, consider, regard*. Not because they deserve it, but because their work benefits you.
 - c. Live in peace with them. εἰρητεύω #1514: *make peace, cultivate peace, keep peace, live in peace*. Not because they deserve it, but because their work benefits you.
3. Unnecessary grief to Pastors (Heb. 13:17,18).
 - a. Obedience and submission to spiritual leaders is a recognition of their role as the shepherds and guardians of the believer's soul (Heb. 13:7a; 1st Pet. 2:25; 5:2,4).
 - 1) Obey = “be persuaded, take someone's advice, follow.” Pres.Pass.Imper. πείθω #3982: *to persuade*.
 - 2) Submit = “to yield, give way.” ὑπέκω #5226: *to resist no longer, but to give way*.
 - 3) Leaders = ἡγούμενοι. Pres.mid.ptc. ἠγέομαι #2233: (in a supervisory context) *to lead, to guide*.
 - b. Making the Pastor's job a joy is profitable to the believer. Making the Pastor's job grievous is unprofitable to the believer (Heb. 13:17b).
 - c. The greatest thing you can do for your Pastor is to pray for him—for his continued ministry in a good conscience (Heb. 13:18).
4. Knowing & esteeming pastors under appropriate Biblical principles will motivate their grace financial support under appropriate Biblical principles (1st Cor. 9:6-14; 2nd Cor. 8:1-5; Gal. 6:6-10; 1st Tim. 5:17,18; 3rd Jn. 8).