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. κοπιάω #2872: to grow weary, to labor with wearisom effort.
      2) They stand in front of you in the Lord. προίστημι #4291: to set or place before.
      3) They admonish you. νουθετέω #3560: to admonish, warn.
   b. Esteem them very highly in love. ἡγέομαι #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. εἰρηνεύω #1514: make peace, cultivate peace, keep peace, live in peace. Not because they deserve it, but because their work benefits you.

   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.” ὑπείκω #5226: to resist no longer, but to give way.
      3) Leaders = ἡγούμενοι. Pres.mid.ptc. ἡγέομαι #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).