

The Pastor-Teacher Leader or Manager?

In the local church, the leadership of the pastor is related to his faithful and consistent study and teaching of Bible doctrine. The leader-pastor teaches the Word of God with much inculcation so that his congregation might become dependant upon the principles and doctrine accumulated in their memory. He recognizes the privacy of the royal priesthood of each believer and avoids counseling or dictatorial functions that create dependency on the pastor. Through his teaching, he encourages dependency upon the Father's plan, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and ones relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The leader-pastor teaches the Word to his congregation, usually assembled as a group, and does not violate the privacy of the individual members by asking them individual questions about their spiritual lives. The leader respects and defends the privacy of every member of the congregation.

The leader-pastor does not encourage dependency upon him nor does he set himself up as a role model. Rather, through his teaching, the Lord Jesus Christ will become the role model for the members of his congregation who are positive to his message, growing in grace and in knowledge of our Lord by means of the Word and the guidance and counsel of the Holy Spirit. The leader encourages dependency on God.

On the other hand, the manager-pastor may or may not teach Bible doctrine, but seeks to regulate, to control and to gain power over the members of his congregation. He encourages counseling, leaning on him for advice, thus creating a dependency on himself rather than a dependency on the Word of God. When a congregation is under the ministry of a manager-pastor, either they react to his control and regulations, or over-respond to his fatherly authority. If the congregation reacts, they will seek to malign, criticize, or judge him. If they over-respond, they will depend upon him for their role model. Both scenarios are detrimental to the local church and the individual believer.

Principles:

1. The only role model in the Christian way of life is Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus Christ cannot become the role model without consistent cognition of Bible doctrine.
3. No believer can reach spiritual maturity without a leader-pastor and without the free function of his volition.
4. Leadership requires authority. The leader-pastor establishes his authority through his faithful teaching of accurate Bible doctrine. The managerial pastor establishes his authority through control, regulation and his demand to be recognized as the authority of the Church.
5. The leader-pastor sets up policy and delegates authority to others for the administration of the local church. The managerial pastor cannot trust others, and so is constantly interfering in the function of his deacons.

6. Through the teaching of a leader-pastor, the members of the congregation are motivated by their respect and love for the members of the Godhead to do God's will. Through the counsel and the exhortations of the managerial pastor, church members are motivated to do the pastor's will, namely: to come to his worship service and prayer meetings, join in Church activities, and above all to give ten percent of their earnings every week.

7. The leader-pastor is concerned about the spiritual growth of the souls of his members, not the size of his congregation. The managerial pastor is concerned about the size of his congregation and how far his church building penetrates into the heavens. So, the managerial pastor often brags that his church is growing, meaning that new edifices are being constructed and more people are attending.

8. The leader-pastor explains through doctrine how to become experientially righteous. The managerial pastor teaches legalism, hypocrisy and self-righteousness.

9. The leader-pastor seeks to protect the privacy of his congregation. The managerial pastor seeks to invade the privacy of his congregation.

10. The leader-pastor emphasizes the importance of knowing doctrine and having a love for God. He teaches his congregation the importance of correct thinking, motivation, decision making and how to apply the Word of God to every phase of the Christian life. The managerial pastor doesn't teach the spiritual life, but emphasizes only the importance of Christian morality. In other words, the leader-pastor teaches every phase of the spiritual life, whereas the managerial pastor doesn't. The managerial pastor does not place an emphasis on studying and teaching so the content of his message is not deep, but he vigorously exhorts his congregation to be good and moral.

11. The leader-pastor demonstrates his love for his congregation by his dedication to study and teaching. The managerial pastor demonstrates his lack of love for his congregation by his failure to properly teach the spiritual life to his congregation.