

Closing

HOW TO GET CLOSE TO YOUR PASTOR

MIDWEEK SERVICE | THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Romans 10:13-15 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Introduction:

1. Go to church when the _____.
2. _____ for your pastor.
3. _____ with your pastor.
4. Teach your children to _____ the pastor.
5. Keep him _____.
6. Read any material that he _____.
7. _____ to his sermons if you missed.
8. _____ with your pastor.
9. Be an _____ your pastor.

Listed are some statistics from Barna Research Institute, Focus on the Family, and Fuller Seminary regarding pastors:

- The average pastor lasts about three years.
- 1500 pastors leave the ministry every month, due to spiritual burnout or contention in the church.
- America is experiencing a net loss of 3,000 churches each year.
- 70% of pastors constantly fight depression.
- 80% of pastors and 84% of pastor's wives are discouraged with the ministry.
- 50% are so discouraged they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other means of making a living.
- 85% said their greatest problem is they are sick and tired of dealing with problem people such as deacons and associate pastors.
- 80% of pastor's wives wish their husband had chosen another profession.
- 50% of pastor's marriages will end in divorce.
- 70% of pastors do not have a close friend or confidant.
- 80% of pastor's children much seek professional help for depression by the time they become adults.
- Over 50% of pastor's wives said that the most destructive event that has occurred in their marriage and family was the day they entered the ministry.

Here are a list of things a pastor might not tell you:

- It doesn't matter how people leave, we always take it personally and it always hurts.
- We run the risk of constantly neglecting our own kids because of the constant pressure to help everyone else's.
- It is physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually exhausting to thoroughly preach a message.
- We don't get the same luxury of having a Pastor to call when we struggle.
- Our kids are under constant scrutiny and will often be used against us by critical people.
- We struggle financially like everyone else and additionally worry about the entire church's financial stability.
- We have very few friends, a whole bunch of acquaintances and less than a handful we can really trust.
- Working 50 hours a week is considered part time.
- We can rarely rejoice in who shows up because we immediately know who skipped out.
- We struggle with turning off our phones, disconnecting or going out of town.
- We never get days free of drama and problems.
- No matter how good Sunday was, Monday is always an emotional roller coaster.
- The weight of people's unrealistic expectations fill us with anxiety and restlessness.