

# Protecting Your Pastor

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## The Sermon Your Pastor Wants to Preach But Can't

2 Samuel 23:13-

If you don't protect your pastor no one will and he will burn out.

Leaders are targets (if you aren't the senior pastor you can never understand)

Targets of rumors

Targets of criticism

You can't shut your pastors' critics up but you can shut them out!

Targets of insecurities and jealousy

Your pastor is stuck- wants to defend his integrity but doesn't want to sound insecure.

It should be a sheep race to see who can defend him first!

Why does a pastor have a different set of struggles?

Ministry has a huge physical effect on his body.

30 minutes of preaching equals an 8 hour work day of laying brick.

Some stats

80% of pastors believe that preaching has a negative effect on their family

90% are not trained to cope with the demands placed on them

80% spend an insufficient amount of time with their spouse

56% of pastors' wives have no close friends

45% suffer from burnout and/or burnout and leave

70% have no close friends

The clergy have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest divorce rate

You are God's gift to your pastor.

Acts 6:2-4

Prayer and preaching of the word is your pastor's main priority.

3 Things you can do for your pastor:

1) Pray for them!

2) Understand their lives

3) Defend them!! Be a pitbull.

## Q&A

Q. What about us as a support staff. How can we insulate our pastor without becoming victims ourselves?

A. You will have to absorb some. Organize so the blows are shared. Spread the weight. Make sure everyone is on the same page. Always show unity!

Q. How do you change the mindset of a pastor who has always done it himself? Or when hiring a new pastor, making sure he comes in with the correct mindset?

A. Before you hire have a system already in place, so he will go straight into a system set up to protect him.

Q. What do you do when the criticism is within the pastor's home?

A. Loving and gently speak to the family member one on one. Look deeper, there is most likely more than meets the eye.

Q. How much of the finances should the senior pastor see?

A. Really depends on the church. But overall you should get him out of the finances as quickly as possible so he can concentrate on prayer and preaching.

Q. How can we protect our pastor between services without letting people monopolize his time?

A. Depends on your pastor. Some like to get out there and talk and be in the midst. Some want to be alone to decompress before preaching again. Give him a room to be alone in with his favorite drink and whatever else he needs.