

Politics, Churches, & YOU

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Luke 14:26-30

This isn't a recruitment lesson – it's a think before you jump lesson. It is also NOT designed to tell you how to vote on election day. This is a lesson on considering the cost of preaching. I do not have ALL the answers, to every situation. I can only share what I know from my own experiences.

I. The Perfect World

A. Faithful and working Eldership in EVERY church

1. God glorified by every work and purpose
2. Working Evangelism
3. Enthusiastic Preaching and Teaching
4. Active, excited, working and cooperative members
5. Growth

II. The TRENCHES

A) Who's on First? When there are no “Elders”

- i. Typical arrangements
 - A) The “Business Meeting”
 - B) The “older men” rule
 - C) The Wealthiest Person(s) or Business Men dominate
 - D) The “Corporation” or Well Oiled Machine
 - 1) Robert's Rules of Order
 - E) The Dominant Women – Mama says so
 - F) The Dominant Preacher One Man Band

B) Dysfunctional Elders

- i. Old School – the Elders **RULE!**
- ii. We just can't make a decision
- iii. We have to decide that today?

C) The Honeymoon

i. The First 6 Months

ii. When the Honeymoon is over

A) The Annual “Job Review”

- 1) We just can't get into your preaching, we want you to be like brother XYZ who preached here for 100 years
- 2) You weren't hired to teach us, you were hired to work in the community and get us some new members

B) You **expected** to be at the building from 8am – 5pm Monday through Friday (*sometimes – i.e. most of the time on weekends too*)

- 1) Preach, Teach, Be on call 24/7 and work 365 days a year for anyone, anywhere, anyplace, any time for any reason!
 - A) You get 3 sick days anything else we'll **dock your pay**
 - B) You can't be gone unless someone else can or is willing to take your place while you're out.
- 2) You can go on vacation, but we'll call you to come back

C) You're the **PASTOR** aren't you?

- 1) That's what **we pay you** for
- 2) You're always supposed to speak things that uplift us the way we want to be uplifted
- 3) “You don't preach on them things”

iii. WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME?

A) Age/Experience

- 1) You can't get 20 years experience until you've done it 20 years
- 2) Just because you're new doesn't mean you don't have knowledge, you just might not have experience.

iv. **The WORLD doesn't Like you**

- A) Don't think that you can't or won't be harmed
 - 1) People can and WILL physically hurt you
- B) Don't think that you can't or won't be accused of wrongdoing
 - 1) Don't think that people aren't above dredging up something false to oust you.
 - 2) Don't think the MEDIA is your friend
- C) Don't think your own brethren won't turn on you or those you love

iii. Idiosyncrasies

A) We Ain't Never Done It That Way - We've always done it thisa' way

- 1. Why should we change things because of you?
- 2. You ain't from here are ye?

B) I can but you can't - The Double Standard

- 1. We can play cards/dominoes/games -- but you can't
- 2. You should be seen mowing the lawn in a three piece suit because you're the ambassador of Christ
- 3. Preachers shouldn't be seen in Malls or Theaters

C) Why do you get a new car when I can't?

- 1. You don't deserve good stuff
- 2. You shouldn't be paid more than what the person in the church on welfare makes
- 3. You need a financial counselor to determine whether you're using God's money that we give you wisely
- 4. You're the most draining expense that the church has

D) The Preacher wore Blue Jeans

- 1. Your hedges should be only 3' high, trimmed even enough to have a plum line applied to it and your grass no more than 3" high ever on any given day of the week and is prone to inspection rain or shine.
- 2. Preachers never wear shorts or bathing suits or go swimming

IV. YOU

1. Remember what the scriptures teach – is your “job”

- a) Teach/Baptize/Teach – Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15,16
 1. Teach people about salvation
 2. Baptize those who believe
 3. Teach them faithfulness and how to teach others

 - b) Christ and Him Crucified – 1 Cor.2:2
 1. Don't get embroiled in “issues” that are mostly matters of opinion
 2. Remember who is Lord
 3. Let the Bible speak for itself

 - c) Plant/Water – 1 Cor.3:6
 1. Let God give the increase – don't force it

 - d) BE Biblical, Genuine, Gracious, Relevant – 1 Thess.2:1-13
 1. Amidst contention – BE BIBLICAL (vs.2)
 2. Among Attention Getters – BE GENUINE (vs.6)
 3. Don't be ALL BUSINESS – BE GRACIOUS (vs.8)
 4. RECEIVE IT AS REAL – BE RELEVANT (vs.13)
2. You don't have to be a “Pulpit preacher” to be effective or to be an Evangelist
- a) Sharpen other skills they may come in handy
3. Don't wear your feelings on your shoulder
- a) You WILL get hurt
 - b) You WON'T be liked by everyone
 - c) You WILL be abused
 - d) You WILL survive
4. Remember who you serve
- a) Stay true to God and yourself
 1. Your relationship to God is more important than anything, including

brethren. Don't let the world or brethren destroy you.

2. Self Examination is good – Depression FUNK is not
 1. Find and have someone to talk to
 3. Don't “cheapen” yourself – you are worthy of your hire!
 1. Decide early whether you work for God or purse strings
 - a) They church may “pay” you but GOD is your Employer!
 2. If you choose to work in the secular world, don't let it consume you and keep you from doing God's work.
- b) Preach Christ and Him Crucified
 1. You Don't have to have an answer for everything