

“Everyone meet at 5:00 at Joe’s, and we will go from there to the restaurant,” and you get to the restaurant and Brother A is waiting there *mark that man*. He will consistently act in such a way as to show contempt for the leadership of the church. His children will be disrespectful toward those in authority. If you give this man any part in leadership you will live to regret having done so.

Generally speaking, those who give the least complain the most about the Pastor’s salary or the way the church spends its money. Generally speaking, those who give *through* the church to missionaries but do not give *to* the church never bring visitors or lead people to Jesus Christ. Generally speaking, people who murmur about tithing don’t. People who do not murmur about tithing give more than a tithe.

The people who sigh and say, “Well, you know there’s no perfect church” actually think they would not defile one if they found it.

Beware the individual who consistently pulls idiotic stunts in order to get attention. You can never give such persons enough attention. Ignore them long enough and they will give up. Humor their self-centered misdeeds, and the lunacy will never end.

*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears* (Acts 20:28-31).

\*\*\*\*\*

For a catalog listing other helpful materials write:

BBC / HEM  
872 Glenwood Road  
Deland, FL 32720  
USA

\*\*\*\*\*

DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY BY:

# HELLO PASTOR

## Facts of Life For Those Seeking To Oversee the Flock

By James W. Knox

Here are some truths picked up along the way that I hope will be helpful to you as you seek to build and maintain a healthy, Christ-honoring fellowship. These are necessary negatives.

\*\*\*\*\*

If a man who disagrees with your doctrine, standards, and practices feels compelled to express his disagreement, no amount of time will change his mind. Many join our churches that do not see everything as we do, but they have come to learn and to grow. Where they differ they ponder and pray. Others have enough charity and spiritual maturity to accept diversity of operations (1 Corinthians 12:1-10) and rejoice in all that they agree with and choose not to dwell upon their points of disagreement. But a man who must vocalize his areas of contention – not

once or twice but consistently – is not listening, is not learning, and will not change his views. Often a Pastor accommodates such a one in hopes that “if he just keeps attending and hearing the word he will come around.” Ah, but my brother he is not hearing, he is critiquing. Do not give this man any opportunity to gain a single follower that he can take with him when he goes. *He will go.*

Beware the man who grumbles about “a one man ministry”. He is only annoyed because he is not the one man. Should you grant his wish and establish “elder rule” he will grumble if he is not chosen to be one of the elders. Eventually this man will leave because you are a one man ministry and will establish a one man ministry in his living room.

If someone comes to your church and stands weeping and says, “Praise the Lord, we have been looking for a church like this for a million years. There is no church like this in the world. Preacher, everybody else may quit, but you can count on me. I’ll be here till the rapture” or words to that effect – he will be gone in a year.

The individual who comes to you with a catalog of horror tales about all the preachers in the churches he used to go to must be rebuked for such tale-bearing and gossip. If the first rebuke does not stop him, he will be saying the

same terrible things about you to his next Pastor sooner than later.

One would think that grace, the fruit of the Spirit, and humility would abound among those who have labored long for the Lord. Such should be the case. The retired missionary, evangelist, preacher, etc. who will step in and be a friend, helper, and trusted advisor is more rare than platinum. If God sends one your way, praise Him for it. But if a man comes in bragging about himself and making sure the whole congregation knows of his wondrous works – *beware*. When he tries and take over the Bible study or Sunday school class you may as well go ahead and bring the pot to a boil.

A person whose loyalty is to the school or Bible institute they attended not the church they attend will cause you trouble. Every time!!!!

A family who exalts themselves above their brethren because they believe their standards and morals to be superior to those of others in the church will not hurt your church but themselves. They will seek to convince others of their piety, when others are not convinced they will say, “They just don’t like us because they are worldly”. Those with high visible standards who are also kind and loving are a blessing. Those with high visible standards who lack the ability to make friends, fellowship with the saints and love

others are a drag. But they will never gain a following and will not harm your church.

If someone is not content and they want to leave the church LET THEM LEAVE. Persuading someone who does not want to be there to be there will only make you wish a hundred times they were not there. Everybody is not going to like your preaching, standards, organizational style, music, youth worker, etc. Accept that. Departure does not mean you are not right with God or the one that left is not right with God. But let them go. Devote your time and effort to those who are walking in agreement.

The parent who can and will graciously receive and appreciate your correction of their children is rare but is a blessing. You can’t be nice enough, sincere enough, concerned enough, or right enough to get through this unscathed. The older the child the worse the reaction will be. However, when you must speak to a parent about a disorderly child and the response is one of anger or resentment or accusation or excuse making, know that the problem is not the child, but the child is simply repeating the sins of the father and mother.

Should there be those come in among you who consider themselves above the little rules, they have a rebellious and proud heart. For example, if you say →