

Problem Pastors / Problematic People And Positive Possibilities

(1 Cor. 14:33) For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (What a church that had its share of problems, but Paul seen positive possibilities)

(Problem) “anything thrown forward, a question proposed for solution, a question involving doubt. [Webster's 1913 Unabridged English Dictionary].

The church at Corinth certainly had their problems and some had a problem with Paul and questioned his ministry credentials. And at the same time Paul saw problematic people within the church which needed to yield to God and the scriptures. As both see the problems in each other, God can see the positive possibilities in each, if they will just seek Him for the solution. There have always been problems with pastors and people because both are prone to get and walk in the flesh. Our pride is the biggest hindrance in seeing the positive possibilities in others with the help of the Lord and obeying the scriptures.

Without a doubt we all have problems in which the Lord can and will solve if we let Him work in our lives. Have you ever had a problem with a pastor or church member that you think that there was no solution? There is always a Biblical and spiritual answer to our problems and the problematic people in our lives. The biggest problem many times is we ourselves in not yielding to the Lord, His word and the Holy Spirit, this means we are too prideful.

As we travel and have met new pastors and church members in the past five years, without a doubt there are problems everywhere and in every church, with some having more than others. As we talk to pastors sometimes it looks like there are a lot of problematic people that they are dealing with, but then also we hear about some problem pastors who the church is putting up with also. This is not all bad because it just shows us we all are in process of growing and that we need the Lord to help us in solving our problems. As a song says “if we never had a problem, we would never know that He could solve them”, when we look to the Lord there can be positive possibilities for both the pastor and the people.

When our problems are not resolved be it with the pastor or the people in the church it is because there is unwillingness on one or both sides to communicate with love and respect. Most of our problems are not as big or important as we may think in the big picture of God's work and ministry of seeing the lost saved. Many times it is an immature decision or preference that causes a lot of what we think is “big problems” in pastor people relationships. I'm not saying that there are never serious or big problems in the church, but most of the time it could be solved with yielded hearts and right attitudes in love. “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity. **(1 Cor. 14:26 / 13:13)**

Here we say it again, there are no perfect pastors or members therefore we will continue to have problems with each. But with the Lord and His word and letting the Holy Spirit have His way we can and should have positive possibilities with both pastor and people. “As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also *are* ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.” **(2 Cor. 1:14)**

God bless and thank the Lord for letting you have a problem that He can solve if we let Him.

Bro, Mickey - SCM

Problem Pastors / Problematic People And Positive Possibilities

2 Corinthians 10:10 / 11:6) For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible. But though *I* be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things.

The pastorate is one of the greatest calling in the ministry with tremendous responsibility and wonderful privileges to serve our Lord and His church. Overall I'd like to believe that most pastors are sincere and really want to do the work of the ministry with a servant's heart. Their motives may be correct but their methods sometimes get ahead of good common and spiritual sense in their zeal to serve. My friend and late former pastor, Dr. JB Buffington used to call it "zeal without knowledge" and we all have been there at some time in our ministry.

This can cause problems for the pastor if perceived by the church members that he is just having a "his way or the highway" attitude. Weather a problem is real or perceived by the church members; it is up to the pastor to know and to make it clear that he will be working on trying to resolve it as soon as possible (he is the servant leader). To have an attitude that we as pastors are never wrong or have any problems is just not being honest with ourselves or the church. This is not saying that what every member sees or perceives as a problem of the pastor is real or legitimate, they also have their problems and don't know everything.

Therefore let the pastor take the lead in making sure that he doesn't cause any undue cause for misunderstandings weather real or perceived by the church. As a pastor let's be honest and truthful concerning our weaknesses and faults with a right heart of love and humility. When, not "if" we make mistakes let us confess up and straighten up to do what's right with a good attitude. It's not "our way or the highway" it should be our Lord's way with His people, then that will be the best way to serve together.

Here are a few top problems that members have with pastors; (real or perceived)

- **Communication** – this is also a big problem in homes as well. Many times this is a perception but with some the truth is that their pastor just doesn't communicate well with the members or others. Remember that you are the pastor to all, not just a certain few that like everything that you do. Wrong or bad communication skills can and will hinder and hurt a pastor's effectiveness in ministry.
- **Truthfulness** – a pastor has a great responsibility to "speak the truth in love" not only when he preaches but when he says things to people. A pastor needs to really watch what he says and make sure that he follows through if he makes a commitment.
- **Transparency** - in the past some taught that the pastor should not let the church see the real man away from the pulpit. One of the best things a pastor can do is to let his people know that he is just as needy as anyone else. We don't have to expose everything, but just be real about the struggles and temptations that they are seeking to overcome.
- **Leadership** – many problems are over some type of leadership style that is either to weak or to strong with the church. There is certainly a balance in servant leadership and some members will always see the imbalance in the pastor. The pastor should lead with a heart for the church and a love from the Lord to His church. Pastors are under the Lord's authority, but not above it, learn to know the difference.

To the church member I'd say that there are great possibilities if we seek the Lord to help our pastors in their problems. Let both pastor and people have patience and love toward each other so that the church may be edified and Christ glorified in their service. God bless your week!
Bro. Mickey - SCM

Problem Pastors / Problematic People And Positive Possibilities

(1 Cor. 3:1-3) And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

You heard the saying, “If it wasn’t for those people, pastoring would be easy.” I know this is just a joke but it does seem to have some truth to it, but whoever said that pastoring people would be easy. People have problems and a lot of people have more than their share so they give them to the pastor. There are problematic people in the church that just seem to always have problems with everything and everyone in the church. These people are their own worst problem, whether they know it or not and they probably don’t know it.

It doesn’t mean that these people should be loved any less or treated any different than other members of the church, but they will require more time and energy than others. Some people are just prone to more problems because of their past or their poor choices now in the present. Many of these problematic people are one’s that need to grow in their spiritual life and in their relationship with the Lord and as well with others. As pastors we are to love and serve them all even those who would be considered problematic. Sometimes just like the members, pastors may have a perceived problem with a church member that is not real or as bad as he thinks.

The devil is always trying to divide and destroy relationships between pastors and church members and if they don’t recognize him they will fall for his schemes. The flesh also will resist any good that the Holy Spirit is trying to bring about for the church as a whole and in individuals. Let’s make sure that we are fighting and resisting the right enemies and not our own soldiers in the camp.

Here are a few top problems that pastors have with members; (real or perceived)

- **Communication** – this seems to be as much as a problem with church members as it is with pastors. Like the family the church and pastor will do much better if they learn to have good open and honest communication with each other.
- **Carnality** – this is the believer that is trying to live on the fence wanting to serve the church but doing it their way in the flesh. Carnality comes from a lack of maturity or just plain rebellion that works out in disobedience to God, church and the pastor. These folks will take a lot of prayer and patience from the Lord to shepherd them.
- **Critical spirit** – this may be hard and hurtful to a church or a pastor that’s trying to serve the Lord in humility. There is a good and healthy criticism that can work for our good if we let it and the one doing it knows how to give the positive criticism in a humble Christ like spirit.
- **Commander** – this is the challenge for the position of who’s in charge or has the right authority to lead the church. We know that Christ is the head of the church, but He has one that has (or should) have His heart, to lead the church where He desires and that’s the obedient pastor. If a pastor knows that he has a real call to a church, then he can rest assured in the fact that the Lord will help him through the tough times.

Life has its problems and people, thank the Lord we can know that He cares for us all and will help us solve our problems as we seek Him for solutions. God bless and have a great week.

Bro. Mickey - SCM

Problem Pastors / Problematic People And Positive Possibilities

(2 Cor. 12:14-15) Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

There are many descriptions for the church- sheep, flock, but I like to use the idea of a church family. Just like churches families also have their share of problem solving and the more you have in the family the more likely you are to have more problems to solve. When both parents and their children are saved and in fellowship with the Lord then they can have a good positive outcome to their problems. When everyone in the family yields to God's word and in humility serves one another they have positive possibilities.

Just as every family should look to the Lord for positive possibilities in solving their problems the church can and should do the same. It is only by pride which causes confusion and strife in our families and churches and therefore there seems to be no resolve to our problems. There has to be a willingness on both sides to solve our problems, with an honest confession that there may have been some wrong on both sides. If one or both are not yielded to the Lord's word and the Holy Spirit, then they will have a very difficult or impossible time trying to solve their problems. Our biggest hindrance to solving our problems in church and the home is our pride (Pro.16:18).

Here are a few problem solving hints for both pastors and church members;

- **Admittance** – our coming to terms with the fact that all of us have problems is the first step in getting our problems solved. Many times we don't want to admit that we or someone else has a problem that needs attention. This means being aware but not seeking out or initiating problems. Avoiding problems only makes them worse and harder to solve.
- **Attention** – pay attention to what God's word has to say about the problem and its solution. Many times our emotions and personal agendas over ride what the scriptures really tells us what to do about our problems. Let God's word apply to the problem.
- **Application** – many pastors and church members know what to do, but just have a hard time doing it or don't know how to put the principles into practical practice for solving problems. There needs to be a spirit lead applying of the scriptures from both sides.
- **Attitude** – a lot of personal and church problems could be solved by just changing our attitudes towards each other. Just knowing what is right will not solve the problems if our attitudes are wrong in how we handle the problem. This applies to both pastor and people in the church, our attitudes can determine the positive or negative outcome.
- **Admission** – most of the time there is more than one at fault in a problem and each should seek forgiveness of the other or others with a heart of forgiveness. A willingness to take responsibility for our part in a problem will go a long way in helping others in seeing their need or part also in the problem. Admitting we're wrong is hard, but right.
- **Agreement** – sometimes we simply have to agree to disagree agreeably, but must in all things agree to love and respect each other in the Lord. There can be an agreement on more of what is right in a relationship than what we see is wrong or a problem. A wife and husband may not always agree, but they should always love each other (1Cor.13).

There are positive possibilities if we put away our pride and seek the Lord and yield to the Holy Spirit's filling. Not all problems will be solved, but shouldn't we continue to work on solving them? This may take work and sacrifice on both sides, but the benefits will be worth it in the long run. Every relationship is worth trying to keep and restore with the Lord's help. God bless.

Bro. Mickey - SCM