

The Relationship of a Preacher to a local Congregation in Evangelism
www.cvillechurch.com

Introduction: We must always examine our beliefs and practices by the word of God.

- A. Much of what is expected of a “preacher” has come from human tradition.
 - 1. In the denominational world the preacher is viewed as another “class” of Christian.
 - a. He is not just “another member” but rather has special duties.
 - b. Some have made a “clergy-laity” distinction with special titles and clothing being given this “higher office.” **(Mt 23:5-11)**
 - 2. Many Christians have done the same thing without knowing it.
 - a. They have “hired” a man to help the church grow. **(Jn 10:11-14)**
 - b. The preacher often lives in a world and does a work *completely foreign* to the members.
 - c. The preacher is often held accountable to doing the work of an elder, rather than the work of an evangelist.
- B. When a local church has little or no leadership then this relationship is often filled with problems.
 - 1. How many of you would take a “job” overseen by men who have no clue as to what your work is?
 - 2. How many of you would want your finances determined by such an arrangement? How easy is it to misrepresent and stir up others over money?
 - 3. Let us go back to the Bible and learn from the Lord about these things!

I. Why are there churches and preachers?

A. What is an evangelist for? **(Acts 21:8)**

“The term evangelist is derived from the Greek word *euaggelion*, meaning “gospel” or “good news.” The verbal forms of *euaggelizesthai*, meaning “to bring” or “to announce good news” occur some fifty-five times **(Acts 8:4, 25, 35; 11:20)** and are normally translated with the appropriate form of the word “preach.””

- 1. The evangelist is to preach the word! This is his great work.
 - a. He will be judged by God on how faithful he has been to the word and not on how pleasing he has been to men. **(Gal 1:10; 4:16)**
 - b. He carries a great burden to do his job well for the sake of his hearers. What fruit will be produced? **(2 Tim 2:14-15; 1 Cor 3:9-15)**
 - c. The reward of the evangelist is to see the beautiful fruits of God’s word in the lives of others. **(Phil 2:14-16; 3 Jn 2-4)**
- 2. The evangelist is not a “pastor.”
 - a. God has given instructions for pastors. Their work is different!
 - b. Most churches make the evangelist do the work of pastors by neglect!
- B. What is a church for? **(Eph 4:11-16)**
 - 1. A local church is equipped by the Lord to build up the saints!
 - 2. A local church will be involved with “every member” doing their part.
 - 3. Many Christians think they are “hiring” a preacher to do their work!

II. Expectations of a local church of an evangelist

- A. They can expect no more than the Lord does. **(1 Cor 4:1-5)**
 - 1. What do you mean when you “hire” a preacher?
 - 2. If you mean you are supporting a man to be faithful to the work of the Lord then fine. But if you mean you are hiring a man to do your work or submit to human rules then you are wrong! (Ex. As a “youth minister” or special visitation.)
 - 3. Every Christian has responsibilities to the oversight of the church’s elders, including the preacher. This oversight, however, is limited! **(Heb 13:17)**
- B. To preach the word plainly and boldly. **(1 Tim 4:16)**
 - 1. Again, what is our goal? We need men to see and understand God’s word.
 - 2. This will allow them to place their faith in God and not in men. **(2 Cor 4:5)**
- C. To live a life consistent with being a Christian. **(1 Tim 4:12, 16)**
- D. To have a love the Lord and thus a love the truth! **(1 Tim 6:3-5)**
 - 1. A message becomes powerful when the hearer believe there is a genuine interest in their well-being on the part of the preacher! **(Phil 2:17-10)**
 - 2. If a man is trying to just “make a living” or advance a “career,” he should repent!

III. Expectations of an Evangelist of a local church

- A. Faithfulness to the Lord. **(Col 2:18-19; Ezek 33:30-33)**
- B. Those who will stand up when conflict comes. **(2 Tim 4:16-17; Gal 5:11; 6:12)**
 - 1. In many churches the evangelist must stand “alone.”
 - 2. Many “personality” issues are in fact doctrinal issues that cowardly men use to “run a preacher off.”
- C. Support and encouragement in his work. **(2 Cor 11:8-9; Lk 10:7)**
 - 1. It is a very common problem for a preacher to be involved in his work alone without understanding or help.
 - 2. It is good for a man to be supported in this great work to be effective! Sadly this is difficult when proper leadership does not exist.
- D. Protection from carnal attacks and gossip from the weak. **(Titus 1:10-11)**
 - 1. Some view the preacher as “expendable.” (Ex. He’s not a member.)
 - 2. There are times where faithful men must stop those who would destroy another’s influence unfairly. When you destroy a preacher’s influence, you have destroyed his ability to effectively work.

IV. Special problems of our times

- A. Churches without elders.
 - 1. None of you would want to work under the arrangement of the “men’s business meeting!” While it is a proper scriptural arrangement, it has great weaknesses.
 - 2. In the area of preacher’s support there is great ignorance. Sadly a young man is often ignored if he tries to explain his needs. (Ex. “You reckon that’s legal?”)
- B. Lack of personal evangelism. **(2 Tim 2:2)**
 - 1. Both the evangelist and the local church must be involved.
 - 2. How can you expect the preacher to come into a community and reach people without the active work of every member? (Ex. Fishing class)
- C. A wrong attitude towards preaching.

1. Why did Paul receive criticism in his day? (**2 Cor 10:10; 1 Cor 2:2-4**)
2. Today we see a shift of responsibility from the home to the preacher! Rather than preparing one's heart for worship and expect that a man teach the truth, we are now concerned about "style and delivery." (Ex. Clock watchers)
3. Recently Bill Hall preached a series about "problems facing the church" and one of his greatest concerns was "professionalism in preaching." (Ex. Members visits 20 yrs ago)
4. Should a preacher become the focal point of "how the work is going?"
 - a. Too often we have made him the "pastor" in a de-facto way. Think!
 - b. When brethren make a preacher the focus of concern for things that are the duty of the whole congregation, it is almost certain that these same brethren have neglected their own duty!

Conclusion: What is your attitude towards the work of preaching? (**Rev 2:4-5**)

Two Men View Their Neighbor
Bill Hall

Two men view their lost neighbor, but they see him from different perspectives. **The first man** sees him as a potential asset to the church. For years, the church with which he worships has struggled for want of manpower and leadership, and here's the very man who could fill the void. "if we could only win him over," the first man thinks, "what a help he could be to us."

The second man sees him primarily as one in need of salvation. He sees him as one who is lost, without Christ now, and doomed for hell eternally. True, the man could be an asset to the church if he were genuinely converted, but his need for Christ and salvation is infinitely greater than the church's need for him. "If we can bring him to Christ," the second man thinks, "he can be saved, go to heaven, and bring glory to the Lord."

The first man approaches the neighbor, telling him how much the church needs him and what an asset he could be. His appeal is built upon flattery and pride.

The second man approaches him with the gospel. He tries to bring him to an awareness of his sinfulness, hopelessness, and helplessness. He points him to Christ as the only answer to his greatest need. He knows that until this man is shaken from his lofty opinion of self, he cannot come to Christ; that until he comes with poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hungering and thirsting for

righteousness, etc., he cannot have salvation or be fit for the Master's use. His appeal is therefore built upon persuasion and urgent conviction.

The first man would have his neighbor come down the aisle with a smile on his face to do the church a favor. **The second man** would have him come with bitter tears seeking that which he so desperately needs, The first man's concept of the church is primarily that of an organization seeking help for its basic needs. The second man's concept is that of people who have bowed in submission to Christ and have found in Him the answer to their needs. The first man's appeal is carnal; the second man's appeal is spiritual. The first man may be successful in getting his neighbor "into the church" and "winning him over," but the second man will be successful in saving a soul from death. Unfortunately, the first man may "win" more with his approach than the second man, for the carnal appeal seems far stronger than the spiritual in our day, but, in truth, he weakens the church with every one he "converts."

"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4). These mighty weapons must be used skillfully, but there is no room for substitutes. Fleshly appeals must be cast aside. Flattery and pride represent the very opposite spirit from that of the Lord's kingdom. Indeed, our second man uses the only approach that is pleasing to God.