

I WILL HONOR THE PASTOR

I Timothy 5: 17-18

Pastors are celebrated, criticized and often misunderstood. They are misunderstood because many people do not understand the depth of their labor. A good pastor will labor in preparing sermons and bible study lessons. The preparation includes prayer time. Pastors are criticized for not spending enough time in the office when they are in the field and for spending too much time in the field when they can be in the office. A good pastor should be concerned about the sheep in their congregation and the welfare of the community.

Pastors who are celebrated and honored by people who value their work and their presence. They are grateful for the spiritual food they receive as they grow spiritually, the peace that God grants them and the peace their spiritual leader endeavors to gain for the community. They appreciate their pastor's presence in times of trouble and celebrations. They encourage their leader who has encouraged them; they support their under shepherd with their presence and their resources. Good parishioners pray for their pastor and treat them as angels of God.

Let me share with you three reasons why we should honor the pastor.

1. Honor Pastors for their Love.
 - A. Their love for God
 - B. Their love for people

2. Honor Pastors for their Labor.
 - A. Their labor in the word
 - B. Their labor in the community

3. Honor Pastors for their Light.
 - A. Revealing God's truth
 - B. Revealing God's trust