

Types of Pastors

Four Kinds of Pastors (from Church Consultation Training Handbook)

1. “Don’t pay the rent” pastor – which means they really don’t work that hard, they are not earning their keep, they are incompetent, they may not really be called by God to be a pastor
2. “Pay the rent” pastor – which means they do a “good” job but won’t break any barriers, they do what must be done to get by but not more
3. “Goal driven” pastor – which means they are hard working and highly competent but do too much themselves so their ministry can only be a certain size. Most are well intended, but some are too “control” oriented.
4. “Vision driven” pastor – which means they are driven by a vision from God and find others who will help them see that vision come to pass. They learn to delegate and multiply themselves in ministry. There are few limits to what this man can accomplish as long as he stays true to a genuine vision from God. They are the ones who go to the “next level” in their ministry.

Qualities of “Next Level” Pastors (from a peer related survey done by Church Consultation Ministries)

1. Have served their current church 11.8 years or longer. This is in contrast to the three year tenure of the majority of pastors. The longer a man stays the more credibility he has to make real and significant lasting change.
2. Have worked hard to achieve a good theological/pastoral education. 80% of “next level” pastors are seminary trained. It does not appear that the training itself had as much to do with their effectiveness as it was a commitment to life long learning and to growing as an individual. A person who is personally growing has something to offer to others who want to grow. Though formal education is not the only way to accomplish such growth, it is a key way in which it can be done in North America.
3. Have a passion for what they do.
4. Have a love of reading.
5. Have a love for preaching the Word of God.
6. Have a conservative theology. It is interesting to note that “liberal” pastors did not make the grade when reviewed by their peers as being extraordinarily effective, only “conservative” pastors did. Perhaps this is because a pastor who is holding to the truth of the Word actually has something worthwhile to say.

In response to the above articles:

One GMBA pastor said:

Here are two other types to add to the four previously mentioned:

1. The ICU Pastor - This pastor has been so wounded in the ministry that he is barely hanging on and is in pastoral life-support. This pastor may be in danger of leaving the ministry, battles depression and anxiety, and may even be suicidal. The scars of ministry have had a tremendously negative impact in this man's life and it may be years before he recovers.

2. The Resurrected Pastor - This pastor has been dead in the ministry, possibly killed by some well-meaning church members, but the Lord revives and renews his passion and calling and he leads him back into ministry where he is able to take the wounds and experiences of the past and understand how God can utilize them and find purpose in them.

Another GMBA pastor said:

There are really only 2 kinds of Elders.

Those who understand being an Elder is a calling and those who view it as a vocation.

The one serves the Lord because it is his passion (see I Peter 5) the other because he likes the money and the hours.

One is concerned about the souls of men (see I Thess 2) the other about his pocketbook.

One is concerned about proclaiming the whole counsel of God's Word (see II Tim 4) while the other is concerned with preaching whatever the people want to hear.

One is more concerned about how others perceive him as a preacher, the other is concerned about how to most glorify God.