

GROWTH GUIDE / October 15, 2017

This is the week that our Elders set aside to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Sunday, and so we thought it would be the perfect time to read a few Scriptures and learn more about what pastors are called to do biblically.

Take the time to read through the following passages and discuss the questions that accompany them. After you've discussed each verse, have someone in the group pray for our leaders by name along the lines of what you learned in the verse and the discussion.

1 Timothy 4:2

1. What is the overarching command given to pastors (hint: it's the first 3 words!)? What 3 things are pastors called to do as they preach? How are they supposed to preach? When are they supposed to be ready to preach?
2. Perhaps the greatest burden pastors and leaders can carry is the weight of this verse: what they are called to do isn't always received with the greatest enthusiasm because being corrected or rebuked isn't always enjoyable. **Pray for your leaders to be FAITHFUL** to the call to preach and not FEARFUL of those to whom they are preaching.

Acts 20:28; James 3:1

1. Have you ever been asked by someone else to watch over something they owned that was worth a lot of money? If so, how did you feel while you were taking care of it?
2. What are pastors called to watch over? Who calls them? According to the last part of Acts 20:28, who owns the flock that pastors are watching over? In light of this responsibility, do you think it was wise for James to discourage people from rushing into the role of pastor?
3. All of us will have to give an account to God for how we lived our lives, but according to these verses, pastors and leaders are also going to give an account for how well they helped others in the church live their lives. **Pray for your leaders to be HEALTHY** (spiritually, physically, emotionally) so that they will be in the best position to be able to help others in the church be healthy.

Ephesians 4:11-12

1. This is such a rich selection of scripture! Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that the pastors and leaders at The Gathering (and other churches) are GIFTS to their churches, and not gifts given by just anyone, but by CHRIST HIMSELF! How does seeing your leaders as a gift from Jesus change your perspective of them?
2. According to verse 12, why did Jesus give the church these gifts? The Greek word used here for "equip" is only used here, and it means to "completely furnish." How does knowing that your leaders are given by God to completely equip you for what God has called you to change your perspective of them?
3. **Pray for your leaders to be HUMBLE** as they fulfill the call of God to equip our body and then close out the night with prayers of THANKFULNESS for the leaders God has given us at The Gathering!