



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

A couple of weeks ago we began looking at “unbiblical sayings” – common sayings that people mistakenly believe are either found in the Bible or express biblical truth. So far, we have looked at the unbiblical sayings of “God helps those who help themselves” and “To forgive is to forget.”

In this devotional, I want to examine the unbiblical saying: “Pastors are called to a higher standard.” As a pastor, I have heard this expression countless times – sometimes used as an attempted attack against me, but most of the time used as an attempt to defend or justify their own sinful actions. For example, when confronting someone in sin I would ask, “If I did the same thing, would you think it was sin for me?” To which the predictable answer comes back, “Yes, but you are a pastor and pastors are called to a higher standard.”

The fact of the matter is that pastors are not called to a higher standard. Every Christian is called to live a holy, Christlike, life. There is no higher standard than that! Here are just a few of the many examples in Scripture:

Matt 5:48 ~ “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

2 Cor 7:1 ~ “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

Eph 4:11-13 ~ “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

Eph 5:1 ~ “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”

Phil 1:9-11 ~ “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Phil 1:27 ~ “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...”

1 Peter 1:15-16 ~ “but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

There is no “Pastor’s Version” of the Bible (that is thicker and heavier than the “normal” version). Pastors are called to be examples of the Christian life (1Cor.11:1; Heb.13:7; 1Pet.5:3) and are held to a high degree of accountability before God (Jer.23:1-2; Ezek.34:10; Acts 20:28; Heb.13:17; Jms.3:1; 1Pet.5:1-2), but there is no higher standard for pastors (or lower standard for non-pastors).

By God’s divine design, the pastor’s role and responsibility is for the edification of the church and the glorification of Christ. As the pastor is called to live a life of holiness and godliness, the church is called to follow his example. All Christians are called by God to live Christlike lives – there is no lesser calling and there is no greater calling.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(10/12/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #41):

Numbers 33-36; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Psalm 119; Proverbs 29-30; Micah; Acts 5-6; Hebrews 8-10

Recommended Reading:

“Sanctification: God’s Passion for His People” by John MacArthur