



The Perfect Pastor

I hope this spoof on the perfect pastor will give you a good chuckle and maybe a little food for thought. ~ Pastor Dennis

A few years back I received an email from a friend telling me that he was just elected chair of the pastoral call committee. The congregation was seeking a new pastor and in an effort to find out what members believed were important attributes in a new pastor he decided to ask them to complete a survey. Here is what he learned from the congregational survey.

The members preferred a pastor who would preach exactly ten minutes and the worship services would be no more than fifty-five minutes. The new pastor would firmly condemn sin but never hurt anyone's feelings. He or she would work from eight o'clock a.m. until midnight seven days a week and would also take care of all the duties of the church custodian. The perfect pastor should receive \$40 per week salary, always dress neatly, drive a good quality economical car, have a substantial library of theological books, and give \$30 per week in offering to the church. The new pastor will be no more than 29 years of age and will have no less than 40 years' pastoral experience. The perfect pastor will have a burning desire to work with youth and teens, will visit the schools daily, have infinite patience with young children, and spend most of his or her time each day with senior citizens. The pastor will always have a smile but will keep a straight face because although the pastor has a fantastic sense of humor he or she is seriously dedicated to the church being served. The new pastor should make at least fifteen home visits a day and is always in the office in order to be seen when needed. The perfect pastor always has time for church council and all of its committees, and never misses a meeting of any church organization. And finally, the new pastor should always be busy evangelizing the unchurched.

My friend quickly realized the perfect pastor always seemed to be at the neighboring church! In an effort to figure out how to get the best pastor possible, my friend decided to visit with that neighboring "perfect pastor." The neighboring pastor said the congregation will find the perfect pastor when it realizes that there is no such thing as a "perfect pastor" just as there is no such thing as a "perfect congregation," which by the way, the "perfect pastor" is always looking for! However, the imperfect pastor and the imperfect congregation can work together to become one in love and service and that results in what God sees as the "perfect" body of Christ. The neighboring pastor then gave my friend the following advice:

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their pastor, too. Then bundle up your pastor and send him or her to the church at the Top of the list. If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1,643 pastors. One of them should be perfect. Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its old pastor back in less than three months.

"The trouble with quotes on the internet is that it's difficult to determine whether or not they are genuine" ~ Abraham Lincoln