

Ministerial Department

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church Ministers' School 2019

By Elder Ronald G. Spurgeon

Introduction: Text Scriptures: I Peter 5: 1 – 11. Let us consider Peter, a man who displayed every behavior known to man/preacher. He exemplified deportment from almost every spectrum of a sinful man to a Godly Minister of the Gospel. He began as a fisherman with a foul mouth, denying his Savior and Master, yet transformed into a repentant minister, pastor, evangelist, and missionary. God developed and molded him into a person who gave his own life for the cause of Christ. Brothers, I feel very much the need to encourage us all to take a good hard look at Our Lives, Our Department (in and out of the Pulpit and Church), and with the help of the Lord provide some much needed instruction on how we MUST be better examples to the Flock, and to Society in general.

I am confident, that if God could change The Apostle Peter, the Apostle Paul, and many other great examples of Godly Men in past years into "Good and Faithful Servants... **See: Matthew 25:23, "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."**, then I am still of the persuasion that The Lord can change and develop us into Good and Faithful Servant Ministers, but IT REQUIRES A DAILY COMMITMENT BY US ALL!

NOTE: PRAYER: A Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ should never approach the holy sacred ground of the Pulpit, nor any other service of the Lord; without spending time with the Lord in a season of Holy Spirit directed PRAYER!

Every Day. Jesus did these Five things EVERYDAY:

1. **HE PRAYED – EVERYDAY**
2. **HE LOVES SOMEONE – EVERYDAY**
3. **HE FORGIVES – EVERYDAY**
4. **HE EMPTIED HIMSELF OF PRIDE – EVERYDAY**
5. **HE YIELDED TO HIS FATHER'S WILL – EVERYDAY**

ARE WE ABLE TO FOLLOW THIS PATTERN JESUS SET BEFORE US?

Define DEPARTMENT, noun Carriage; manner of acting in relation to the duties of life; behavior; demeanor; conduct; management. Supporting Scripture: I Timothy 3:14 – 16, ***"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."***

I. **Seven Key Focuses for a Preacher Man, all beginning with the Letter "E" Note:** All definitions are from Noah Webster American Dictionary of the English Language ~ 1828.

1. **ETH'ICS**, noun The doctrines of morality or social manners; the science of moral philosophy, which teaches men their duty and the reasons of it. 1. A system of moral principles; a system of rules for regulating the actions and manners of men in society. **Is it evident from the Speaker in the Pulpit, that he upholds, teaches, and practices Baptist Doctrine supported by The Holy Bible? We as Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must lead the charge in ethical behavior!** Supporting Scripture: Titus 2:1 – 8. ***"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: ... In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."***

2. **Etiquette: THE KEY IS PROPER ETIQUETTE!** (The word did not exist in 1828, as currently spelled ... i.e. ETIQUET', noun etiket'. **Simple Definition of etiquette: the rules indicating the proper and polite way to behave.** Full Definition of etiquette: the conduct or procedure required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life (Merrim-Webster 2016 on line). Supporting Scripture: John 13:34 – 35. ***"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."***

3. **EFFECT'IVE**, adjective Having the power to cause or produce; efficacious. They are not effective of any thing. 1. Operative; active; having the quality of producing effects. Time is not effective nor are bodies destroyed by it. 2. Efficient; causing to be; as an effective cause. 3. Having the power of active operation; able; as effective men in any army; an effective force. Supporting Scripture: Romans 8: 26 – 28. ***"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:..."*** **The Holy Spirit has the Power to Produce a VERY EFFECTIVE Ministry!**

4. **EN'ERGY**, noun [Gr. work.] 1. Internal or inherent power; the power of operating, whether exerted or not; as men possessing energies sometimes suffer them to lie inactive. Danger will rouse the dormant energies of our natures into action. 2. Power exerted; vigorous operation; force; vigor. God, by his Almighty energy called the universe into existence. The administration of the laws requires energy in the magistrate. 3. Effectual operation; efficacy; strength or force producing the effect. **(Beg the blessed Jesus to give an energy to your imperfect prayers, by his most powerful intercession.)** 4. Strength of expression; force of utterance; life; spirit; emphasis. The language of Lord Chatham is remarkable for its energy. Supporting Scripture: Matthew 28: 16 – 20. ***"Go ye therefore..."***

5. **EVAN'GELISM**, noun The promulgation of the gospel. "One beggar telling another beggar, where to find BREAD" C. H. Spurgeon Supporting Scripture: II Timothy 4: 1 – 5. **Verse 5, "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."**

6. **ETER'NAL**, adjective [Latin oeternus, composed of oevum and ternus, oeviternus, Varro. The origin of the last component part of the word is not obvious. It occurs in diuturnus, and seems to denote continuance.] 1. Without beginning or end of existence. The eternal God is thy refuge. Deuteronomy 33:27. 2. Without beginning of existence. To know whether there is any real being, whose duration has been eternal. 3. Without end of existence or duration; everlasting; endless; immortal. (That they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.2 Timothy 2:10.) (What shall I do, that I may have eternal life? Matthew 19:16.) (Suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Jude 1:7.) 4. Perpetual; ceaseless; continued without intermission. (And fires eternal in thy temple shine.) 5. Unchangeable; existing at all times without change; as eternal truth. **ETER'NAL**, noun An appellation of God. Supporting Scripture: Supporting Scripture: II Corinthians 4: 1 – 18. **"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. Note: What we are doing in Our Ministry has eternal consequences!**

7. **END'ING**, participle present tense [from end.] Terminating; closing; concluding. **END'ING**, noun Termination; conclusion. 1. In grammar, the terminating syllable or letter of a word. Our Goal should be as Paul's Last Testimony... II Timothy 4: 6 – 8. **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."**

A preached message should never end with the congregation wishing he had ended it much sooner...

So You Want Feedback? "SHELVE IT AND MOVE ON" Copied from "ODB devotional 2/19/19"

Proverbs 15:30 – 33, "The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat. The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."

"Criticism and praise stir in us powerful emotions" that, if left unchecked, can lead to either self-loathing or an overinflated ego. In Proverbs we read of the benefits of encouragement and wise counsel: "Good news gives health to the bones... Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding." Learn what you can from criticism (***constructive criticism, not destructive criticism rgs***) and accept praise. Then shelve them both and humbly move on in God's grace and power. **Bottom-line: "LEARN from Praise and Criticism... then SHELVE THEM and MOVE ON!"**

II. Lecture's to My Students by C. H. Spurgeon: "The Pastors' College"

*"The Pastors' College was commenced upon a very small scale in the year 1856. Since that date it has educated and sent forth into the ministry not less than three hundred and fifty men, of whom, after deductions by death and other causes, about three hundred remain in the Baptist denomination, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition to this, a far larger number of men received gratuitous education in the evening, such as may fit them to be city missionary, colporteurs (**someone who distributes publications, books, newspapers or religious literature... rgs**), or useful private Christians."*

*"The institution receives no man in order to make him a preacher, but it is established to help in the further education of brethren who have been **preaching with some measure of success for two years at the least**. Many men of earnest spirit and established Christian character are hindered in their efforts to do good by the slenderness of their knowledge. Conscious of their own defects, they endeavor to improve themselves, but the absence of a guide, their need of books, and their scanty time, all prevent their making progress. These are the men who the Pastors' College welcomes."*

***"Men in whom piety, zeal, and the indwelling Spirit are found need not to fear refusal at our doors on account of poverty, if they possess those gifts of utterance which are essential to the preacher.** The College aims at training preachers rather than scholars. To develop the faculty or ready speech, to help them to understand the Word of God, and to foster the spirit of **consecration, courage, and confidence in God, are objects so important that we put all other matters into a secondary position.** If a student should learn a thousand things, and yet fail to preach the gospel acceptably, his college course will have missed its true design."*

III. Preacher/Pastor Piety: Read: I Peter 3:8 – 18; I Peter 1:13 – 16, "Be Ye Holy, for I am Holy" Leviticus 20:6 - 8

- **Piety is defined as: PI'ETY**, noun [Latin pietas, from pius, or its root, probably a contracted word.]

1. Piety in principle, is a compound of veneration or reverence of the Supreme Being and love of his character, or veneration accompanied with love; and piety in practice, is the exercise of these affections in obedience to his will and devotion to his service.

Piety is the only proper and adequate relief of decaying man.

2. Reverence of parents or friends, accompanied with affection and devotion to their honor and happiness.

- Society is defined as: (seven associated definitions, here are two) SOCIETY, noun [Latin societas, from socius, a companion. See Sociable.]

1. The union of a number of rational beings; or a number of persons united, either for a temporary or permanent purpose. Thus the inhabitants of a state or of a city constitute a society having common interests; and hence it is called a community. In a more enlarged sense, the whole race or family of man is a society and called human society the true and natural foundation of society are the wants and fears of individuals.

2. Any number of persons associated for a particular purpose, whether incorporated by law, or only united by articles of agreement; a fraternity. Thus we have bible societies for various objects; societies for mechanics, and learned societies; societies for encouraging arts, etc. (Source Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

- Piety in the Scriptures: I Timothy 5:4 To be pious, worship devoutly. "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God." Note the missing subject: FATHERS, to requite their parents means to GIVE BACK a recompense. **Piety MUST begin in OUR HOMES, if we are to make a positive impact in Our Society!**

Case Studies from the Scriptures: Case Study is defined as a process or record of research in which detailed consideration is given to the development of a particular person, group, or situation over a period of time. (i.e. medical, business, psychology, or social society studies...)

God has taken detailed consideration to develop a pious society. Knowing we ALL sin, He gave us the Bible, and His Son Jesus as a magnificent EXAMPLE to develop A Good Moral Society. In addition, The Holy Spirit validates these actions by reproofing the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (see John 16:7 – 13).

1. See Scriptural **Case Study One ~ The Negative Impact of NOT developing a Pious Godly developed Life:**

Romans 1:17 – 32, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became

fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

2. See Scriptural Case Study Two ~ Although we live in DIFFICULT, PERILOUS TIMES that are HARD TO BEAR, God will honor... if we honor Him by applying pious principles. **God will Honor our efforts!**

*II Timothy 3:1 – 17, **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. **But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."*****

Ten Commitments to Influence Piety in Our Society:

1. Reverence Be To The One True Holy God

2. Prayerfully Support Our Church
3. Stand Firm for Biblical based Marriage and Christian Family Roles
4. Think no evil of Our Neighbors
5. Don't Believe Everything You Hear
6. Gossip will get you everywhere Quick, and nowhere with long term benefits. (i.e. gossip travels fast, truth is often hindered, or diluted with our own self-expression.)
7. Walk the Talk. Be the Bible for everyone to see, without saying a WORD!
8. Make Piety a Priority Every Day!
9. Let US seek for a "Prayerfully" Pious change for This Society One Soul at a TIME, ...start with ME Lord!
10. The Son of Man (Jesus) is the paramount example of piety! Jesus the "Son of Man" is in the Scriptures at least 85 times... Here are three: Read Matthew 24: 36 – 51.

Conclusion: *Hebrews 13:5 – 21: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

Snap Shot Samples of a Practical Guide for Pastoral Ministry "Real Help for Real Pastors" by Stan Toler

Keep in mind Brothers, YOU are the one who has been called and chosen to carry the Gospel. The Family (including PK's "preacher's kids") has to choose to go along with the hopefully Long Road Ahead. Please consider these tips as you strive to embark on a successful ministry for the Honor and Glory of God. RGS

Part I: PERSONAL GROWTH

Seven Characteristics of Great Pastors

1. They Know How to Pray
2. They Have Personal Integrity (They display Christlikeness. The words "I'm sorry" aren't pulled from their mouths like an impacted tooth.)
3. They Have Great Flexibility
4. They Are Team Builders
5. They Have a Sense of Direction – Spirit Directed VISION!
6. They Have a Great Commitment
7. They DO NOT show favoritism! (added by rls & rgs)

Four Tips to Discovering Joy In Ministry (Joy is the missing link in the lives of many leaders)

1. Give More Than You Get
2. Keep Your Heart Hot "Let the fire of the Holy Spirit burn within you. Joy will follow.
3. Narrow Your Focus "Learn to delegate tasks & You'll enjoy your work a lot more"
4. Give Joy Away "*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38*"

Four Keys to Flawless Character "*The Farmer pulled his truck onto the scales at the grain elevator and then stepped out of the cab. Just as the scale operator was about to take his reading, the farmer stepped quietly unto the scale, adding his weight to that of his crop. Believing no one had seen him, the farmer then emptied his truck and returned to the scale to retrieve his receipt. Although the scale operator had noticed the farmer's sly action, he chose not to confront the dishonesty directly. Instead he handed the receipt to the farmer and said, 'I thought you might like to know, you just sold yourself for eight dollars and fifty-six cents.'*"

1. Self-Define
2. Self-Examine
3. Self-Discipline
4. Self-Report / Peter 3:12, "*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*" God always has His Candid Camera on US ALL!

Six Steps To Pastoral GOOD HEALTH (Physical, Emotional & Spiritual)

1. Get Enough REST (Especially, on Saturday night before getting into the Pulpit on Sunday)
2. Take Time Off (Especially, if you have a FAMILY)
3. Develop Close Friendships
4. Pursue a Hobby (As long as it does not interfere with the Lord's Work, and Cause)
5. Maintain a Devotional Life
6. Seek Help When You Need It ("Pastor, take good care of yourself.")

Creating A Dynamic Devotional LIFE (Six Important keys to a vibrant prayer life.)

1. Pray Daily
2. Pray First
3. Pray Up
4. Pray Out
5. Pray Big "Remember, You are speaking to HIM!"
6. Pray Constantly "*Pray without ceasing*" / *Thessalonians 5:17.*

Four Keys Considerations for Facing Personal Attacks

1. Develop a Thick Skin
2. Develop a Short Memory
3. Develop a Fan Section (Family Members, especially YOUR Lovely Wife!)
4. Develop a Forward Focus "Remember, God is for You!"

For Keys To Making a Good Impression (Proper attire is required.)

1. Be Neat (**comb your hair, brush teeth, take a bath, and use deodorant before getting into the pulpit, and make sure your breath doesn't STINK!**)
2. Dress Appropriately
3. Dress Simply
4. Act Properly (at ALL TIMES) "It should never be said of a pastor that he doesn't act like a pastor or preacher." NOTE: "Let God guide your dress code as well as your sermon preparation. Live so that people will love the One you serve."

Three Focuses for Thriving Amid Adversity

1. Rest In God's Acceptance "*Everywhere you look there is hopelessness, moral decay, selfishness, violence, world conflicts, you name it! But there's sunshine behind those clouds. The Lord Jesus Christ has not only see your condition, He has also spoken these words to your heart: 'You are set free.'*"
2. Rest In God's Availability
3. Rest in God's Assurances "*God's promises are greater than your predicament.*"

Five Serious Tips for Improving Your (Our) Integrity "Personal integrity may be one of the least-recognized qualities for new-millennium leadership, yet it will leave the greatest legacy."

1. Determine to Never Do Anything Privately That Wouldn't Pass Public Scrutiny
2. Determine to Never Do Anything the Scriptures Frown Upon
3. Determine to Never Do Anything That Will Bring Shame to The Kingdom of God (The Church and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ... rgs).

4. Determine to Never Do Anything That Will Rob You of Your Self-Worth
5. Determine to Never Do Anything That Will Make You Vulnerable to Satan

Part II: FAMILY LIFE

Seven Tips for Making Your House A Home

1. Be Available (God gives us only ONE Family, be available for them.)
2. Leave Church Problems at Church
3. Screen Your Calls/Texts, E-mail, Facebook, etc. (A pastor is always on Call, but every call is NOT an emergency.)
4. Entertain (Invite a Missionary or Revival Helpers to Your Home)
5. Take Pictures/Photos of Children (Record the Good Times & Memories)
6. Get Away (it does not have to be exotic, just a day at the public park will make a world of difference)
7. Love Your Work

Four Tips on How To Get Along With Anybody *"Simply put, Barnabas was an encourager. In fact, that's the nickname his fellow apostles gave him: 'Son of encouragement.' He had a special gift for influencing people by overlooking their worst and bringing out their best."*

1. The Standard for Generosity (The Pastor should display the best characteristic of giving financially and spiritually. It all belongs to God, the tithe is the minimal gift, and anything over is truly giving back to God...rgs).
2. The Standard for Forgiveness
3. The Standard for Encouragement
4. The Standard for Restoration

Six Marks of a Healthy Family

1. Financial Security
2. Stability
3. Affirmation
4. Affection
5. Instruction
6. Protection

Four Financial Habits For Life

1. Guard Your Credit Rating
2. Develop a Savings Plan
3. Resist the Irresistible "Let the Jones' be the Jones', and don't attempt to keep up with them!" RGS
4. Plan for Tomorrow Today

Four Tips to Bringing Out The Best In Your Family

1. Love Them *"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."*
2. Include Them

3. Teach Them
4. Stand by Them

Five Tips on How to Make Others Feel Important (through the eyes of a puppy... Puppies have the five characteristics that "family first" leaders simply must learn to possess.)

1. They Care about Your Presence, Not Your Past
2. They Can't Hide Their Intentions *"With a good leader, what you see is what you get."*
3. They Don't Care about Your Pedigree
4. They are Loyal by Nature
5. They are Enthusiastic

Note: "I Corinthians 12:22, Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:"

Six Reminders for Creating An Atmosphere Of Affirmation

1. Celebrate Success
2. Praise in Private
3. Praise in Public
4. Pay Attention to Needs
5. Include The Family
6. Make Affirmation

Three Tips to Say Good-Bye To Bitterness (NOTE: Never bring bitterness in the Pulpit! Rgs)

1. Unforgiveness *"Who are the people from whom you need to ask forgiveness? Whom do you need to forgive? Don't allow unforgiveness to block the joy in your life or in your home."*
2. Resentment *"To forgive means to give up or release."*
3. Anger *"Anger is like a pair of muddy boots on a new carpet. It's heavy. It's messy. And the further it goes, the more enemies it makes. Sometimes our anger isn't obvious, even to ourselves. At other times it blossoms like a dandelion on a new lawn." Apply Ephesians 4:31 – 32, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Part III: MINISTERIAL TIPS

Four Tips for Conducting The Funeral

1. Offer to Assist the Family with Planning the Service
 - a. Seek basic information about the Deceased, full name, nickname. The funeral director usually provides this information from the obituary.
 - b. Life-Centered Information. Education, church affiliation, community service, etc.

- c. Funeral Services Information. Viewing arrangements, officiating minister, assisting minister(s), Scriptures, songs, poems, pallbearers, etc.
 - d. Information about Memories and Relationships.
2. Mobilize the Church. The Pastor should assume the role of activating the care of the grieving family and friends.
 3. Offer to Help Plan the Memorial Service.
 4. The Funeral. Pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit, prior to the actual service. Always Open with Prayer, and introduce the Plan of Salvation with Jesus as the main source of ALL Life and the only Way to make preparations for Eternity. It may be the only opportunity for some to hear the Gospel!
 - a. Prior to Service. Check in with funeral director.
 - b. During the Service, speak up and convey what the Lord puts on your heart, with Scriptural Proof. Make sure you understand the wishes of the Family, before, during, and after the sermon. Do they want you to stay for the viewing with the Family?
 - c. Following the Service. You will lead the casket from the chapel out to the waiting hearse. **Note: With the use of cremation, many things have changed during and after a funeral. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the different cultures and procedures, especially when Urns are in use!** Traditionally, there are some who want you to stay with the casket, until the last bit of dirt has been placed. Some will want you to leave. Communication is the key to insure the funeral pleases first of All The Lord, and then the Family, and Friends.
Final Note: "You represent the love of Christ at a crisis moment. And your loving concern may be just the thing to point a friend or survivor to the Loving Comfort of Christ."

THREE TIPS FOR CONDUCTING THE WEDDING [BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN – ONLY]

1. Prepare the Couple (Become familiar with state laws, concerning the marriage and licensing documentation.) NOTE: Seek each ones testimony of salvation, and importance of being **equally yoked together**. It takes three for a successful marriage, a Faithful Husband, a Faithful Wife, and the Holy Spirit to glue the marriage together as ONE.
 - a. "Premarital counseling is a key to the couple's understanding of marriage-and often key to understanding their roles as marriage partners." "If you are not comfortable in offering extended premarital counseling, you may want to enlist the help of a qualified professional."
2. Prayerfully Prepare for and Execute the Ceremony
 - a. Location (keep in mind your repetition is on the line, be sure God wants you to lead this sacred service, a local bar may not be the ideal place.)
 - b. Rehearsal (a printed written ceremony with instructions will be most beneficial, and having a wedding planner to give specific direction, is a plus.)
 - c. Ceremony (Be sure to be on time! Be sure to check the facilities. Be sure you have reviewed your notes. Be sure to plan for emergencies. Candles may fall and ignite

carpet or furniture. Build emergency plans into your preparation for the wedding. Be sure they have the proper documentation. Be sure both rings are securely available. Be sure to identify grates or any place the rings may fall.)

d. Reception (If the wedding party insists on having alcohol, it would be wise to let them know that you will excuse yourself immediately following the ceremony.) "Your presence (along with your spouse's) is immediate goodwill gesture that projects the image of your ministry, and church. Your friendliness to friends and family of the couple may be a bridge to their attendance at your church." NOTE: If a party breaks out, I would strongly suggest removing yourself from the location, immediately!

3. Provide Ongoing Ministry

a. Make sure you include the importance of attending a Sound Church

b. Provide a Family Bible, if at all possible with congratulatory remarks and encouragement.

c. Officiating with order and personal attention may result in a couple's dedication to serving the Lord.

TEN TIPS FOR HOSPITAL VISITATION

1. Become Familiar with Hospital Policies
2. Know the Patient (or, as much as you can find out prior to the visit)
3. Visit at Appropriate Times
4. Dress Appropriately (again, know your patient and adjust accordingly)
5. Focus on the Patient "You are there to see the patient. Focus on the Patient. That process will include listening to complaints as well as compliments-without agreeing or disagreeing with them. Hospital visits shouldn't be a time for church business."
6. Use Scripture Reading and Prayer in the Healing Process (Be cautious in talking about sports, politics, and conditions outside of the hospital.)
7. Don't Offer a Diagnosis or a Prognosis
8. Be Courteous with Health Care Staff
9. Include the Patient's Roommate in the Visit (Be cautious to other cultures.)
10. Be Brief (Visits should span ten to fifteen minutes. Unless otherwise requested, especially if the patient appears to be nearing death. Some families and friends may want the preacher/pastor to stay close by, others may want it to be close family and friends only. Key is to properly communicate, then provide the information to the Church, for privacy reasons).

It is my sincere hope, that these few tips would help us to grow and expand the Ministry God has enlisted for us. Although these tips do not cover every instance, may it be a help to grow in the Grace and Knowledge of The Lord Jesus Christ, especially when it comes to Ministerial Department. God Bless You, Brother Ron Spurgeon