

# Fundamentals Of The Church

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## Puny Preachers

(I Co 9:16-18)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greetings...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
  - a. We have looked in this subseries at...
    - i. Stinky Shepherds
    - ii. Dirty Deacons
  - b. We will look today at...
    - i. Puny Preachers
3. The church has four responsibilities that if understood properly will allow the church to grow more than even imagined.
  - a. First the church has a responsibility to have "Serious Saints"
  - b. Second the church has a responsibility to have "Puny Preachers"
  - c. Third the church has a responsibility to have "Dirty Deacons"
  - d. Fourth the church has a responsibility to have "Stinky Shepherds"
4. Preaching and thus preachers are the most misunderstood aspect of the brotherhood as far as responsibilities go.
  - a. Let us examine the responsibility of the preacher.
  - b. He should be puny not mighty when it comes to his ego and pride.
5. With that in mind let us look at our first point
  - a. Puny preachers understand that they are...

### I. Not Pastors

- A. Elders lead the flock not preachers or in our case the men of the congregation since we are currently without shepherds.
  1. **Ac 20:28** "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."<sup>1</sup>
  2. **I Pt 5:1-2** "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly"
    - i. The bishops or in our case the men are the decision makers for the congregation.
    - ii. The shepherds or men of the congregation are the spiritual leaders of the congregation.

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<sup>1</sup> All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise marked.

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- B. Preachers are leaders in many ways however
  - 1. Preachers should be leading the way in biblical studying.
    - i. In other words a preacher should be leading the congregation to spiritual maturity through his sermons and ministry.
      - a. **II Ti 2:2** "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
      - b. **I Ti 4:16** "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."
    - ii. That is not to say that bishops are not to be involved with this as well but they are to work with the preacher to make this most effective it can be for a congregation.
- C. Preachers are to lead in the area of evangelism
  - 1. Preachers must never become too big to get out and teach the lost.
    - i. **Ro 10:14-16** "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"
  - 2. Once again this doesn't mean elders are not to be leading the way in evangelism however their main responsibility is to the flock and a preachers is to help plant & water the seed so God can give the increase.
    - i. **I Co 3:6** "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."
- D. Preachers are not pastors or the leaders of the flock.
  - 1. They are saints just like everyone else.

## II. Simply Saints

- A. Not demigods
  - 1. Some preachers think they rule the roost and every decision should go through them. This couldn't be further from the truth.
    - i. **Ro 12:3** "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."
    - ii. **Pr 25:27** "It is not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory is not glory."

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- iii. **Mt 18:1-4** "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
2. Illustration
  - i. Rubel Shelly told Hardeman Nichols that he wanted to be known as a great restoration preacher. Hardeman told him to become a faithful gospel preacher and not to worry about the rest...we see which way brother Shelly went.
- B. Preachers are just one of the flock
  1. **Ph 1:1** "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons"

## III. Humble Servants

- A. They are ministers nothing more nothing less
  1. **I Co 4:1** "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."
  2. **I Co 3:5** "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?"
- B. They are bondservants (lowest form of slavery)
  1. Paul – **Ro 1:1**
  2. James – **Ja 1:1**
  3. Peter – **II Pt 1:1**
  4. Jude – **Jd 1**
- C. As ministers, preachers are to be meek, kind, and humble (puny) but yet willing to stand up for God.
  1. **II Ti 2:24-25** "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth"

## IV. Bold Proclaimers

- A. Not scared by members
  1. **II Ti 1:7-8** "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God"
  2. **II Ti 4:2** "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."
    - i. A puny preacher is one only in the since of letting God have the glory instead of himself and thus a puny preacher preaches the Word with boldness.

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3. **I Jn 4:18** "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."
  - i. He preaches with boldness because of his love for God and the congregation. He would rather they be mad at him because he preached the truth and tried to get them to follow it than have everyone happy with him by not ever stepping on toes.
  - ii. That is why I always say my goal is to step on toes. If I haven't, I haven't done my job.
- B. Teach only the truth & the truth only
  1. This goes with what was must mentioned. Preachers must be more concerned with the Word of God than anything else.
    - i. **I Co 9:16-18** "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel."
    - ii. **I Pt 4:11** "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

## CONCLUSION

1. Brethren we need puny preachers in the brotherhood and if we had more puny preachers we would have more upright congregations.
  - a. The church that the Godhead established only works properly if it is acting godly or as God would have it to act.
  - b. Preachers are not exempt from this nor should they be.
2. Let it be said by each member here this morning that you never allow a preacher to be anything put a puny preacher.
3. Invitation
  - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
  - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
  - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
  - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
  - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
  - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**