

Caring Well for Pastors and Their Families

EIBCC 3/21/24

Questions to Consider

About people in your church

About you

About your pastor

Barna Survey

42% of pastors have considered quitting full-time ministry within the past year.

56% report that it's because of the immense stress of their job.

43% reported feeling lonely and isolated.

38% reported that the stress came as the result of the current political divisions in our country.

The other 58% cited the same issues as having a negative impact on their ability to lead their churches

34%. Cite the immense stress of their job.

32% cite the current political divisions in our country.

18%. Report feeling lonely and isolated.

The role of shepherd

Inherently dangerous

John 10:11–12 (ESV) — **11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) — **8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Threat to Pastors

Performance pressure

Lack of community

Threat to the wife

Unstated expectations

Suffering in silence

Elders' responsibilities for their pastors

1 Peter 5:1–3 (ESV) — **1** So I exhort the elders *among you*, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **2** shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1. Create an environment of trust
2. Speak the truth in love with the goal of building up
3. Recognize limits or constraints of time, energy and skill sets
4. Understand the difference between responsibilities and concerns

5. Success in ministry is determined in terms of faithfulness – not results
6. Have the courage to face concerns directly and in a timely manner
7. Be proactive, not reactive

Elders' responsibilities for their pastor's wives

1. Care well for their husbands
2. Don't have unexpressed or implied expectations
3. Provide a direct communication path
4. Show an interest in her family

When pastors fall

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) — 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Matthew 18:12 (ESV) — 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?

Restoration is the goal

God

Family

Ministry

Understand not just what happened, but how or why it happened

Trust

An assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.

Can only be granted – not earned

General actions

Pray

Reach out

Don't grumble

Serve

Be hard to offend