

BONDING PASTOR AND PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE: I Thess. 2:17-3:13

TEXT: I Thess. 2:17 *“But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time, out of our intense longing, we made every effort to see you.”*

PURPOSE: To show the ideal relationship of love between pastor and people.

PROPOSITION: God’s church can grow with a strong love between pastor and people.

INTRODUCTION:

1. “For we wanted to come to you . . . but Satan stopped us” (18).
2. Satan wants to prevent pastor and people from being together.
 - a. In the case of Paul, the separation was geographical.
 - b. In our instances, separation of philosophy or of spirit can place us worlds apart.
3. Satan in the Hebrew means the accuser and adversary.
4. Satan may use people or pastor to create division.
 - a. “The pastor doesn’t pay any attention to me.”
 - b. “These people are against any change.”
5. The result is a tearing apart.

“Torn away” is the word orphan.

6. Let’s look again at the pastor-people relationship.

I. GOD’S PEOPLE COMPRISE A PASTOR’S JOY (20).

- A. You make up my hope (19).
 1. I cannot accomplish God’s purposes apart from you.
 2. I cannot become all God had in mind without you.
 3. My life will not be fruitful or fulfilling aside from your participation with me.
- B. You are my crown in Christ’s presence (19).

1. When I get to heaven, you will be my crown.
2. If you step into God's presence, I am rewarded.
3. Your successful spiritual journey will bring God's approval upon me.

Sharon led Don to the Lord. Don explained the way of salvation to another who also accepted Christ. (That made Sharon a spiritual grandmother.) Don's friend's salvation became Sharon's crown.

II. **GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CONCERN OF A PASTOR'S HEART.**

- A. A spiritual leader wants to be with his people (17) and vice versa.
- B. A spiritual leader shares his responsibility (2).
 1. To spread the gospel.
 - a. Paul had to delegate some of the work.
 - b. I cannot reach your neighbors or acquaintances.
 - c. God can use you.

I have had people say, "Pastor, lead my friend to Christ." In some case, I have. In others, I have taken the Christian with me, for God wants you to tell the story of Jesus, too.

2. To strengthen your faith.
 - a. So persecution would not unsettle Christians (14).
 - b. So the tempter would not undo the spiritual leader's work (5).

III. **GOD'S PEOPLE CARE FOR THEIR PASTOR.**

- A. They grow in faith (6).
- B. They learn to trust God more.
- C. They become assured that God will care for them.

Martin Luther wrote a letter to his wife, on one occasion, thanking her for the great care and anxiety she had for him. He wrote that since she began to be anxious, he was nearly consumed by a fire in the inn, a stone fell on his head and almost crushed him, and he just missed the ceiling falling in. He told her, "I fear if you do not cease being anxious, the earth may at last swallow us up and the elements pursue us. Is this how you have learned the Catechism and the faith? Pray and leave it to God to care for us, as he has promised... 'Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain thee'."

3. They undertake big challenges.

Roy Angell tells the story of two men sitting in front of a country store alongside a densely wooded area. The little one turned to the massive hulk of a man next to him and said, "You're about the biggest man I've ever seen. Do you know what I'd do if I was as big as you?"

"What would you do, li'l man?" the big one replied without so much as turning his head.

“Why, I’d go over to those woods, find me the biggest bear there is, and tear him limb from limb to show what a man I am.”

Slowly the big man turned to face the smaller man. Quietly, but forcefully, he said, “There are plenty of little bears over there; why don’t you go kill one of them!”

D. The increase in love (12).

Dear Pastor.....

Look I’ve been wanting to write this for a long time ago. Look every time I come to your church I learn more –n- have fun. When my mom died, I didn’t think anything would be better, but this church is great –n- I really feel bad for you with a lot of people saying stuff –n- doing stuff that is wrong. I wish I could do something to help you. I mean I’ll do almost anything for you –n- anything for Jesus –n- God. So if I can do something for you please tell me. I’m going to miss you when you leave the church. I mean this church was here for me so I want to be here for it! I hope you –n- your wife live (live) happily ever after.

LOVE, Heather (a 10 year old girl)

CONCLUSION:

1. Let’s join around the altar.
2. We need God to bind us together.