

Being a Gift

I. The Lesson

If we're truly honest with ourselves, there are people – yes, even in the Church – who demand of us a greater grace when dealing with them. There are those who take more of your energy than you want to give, whose personalities clash with yours, and those who would talk into the wee hours of the morning if you'd let them. These people are not bad, they just are not the kind of people you would spend every day with if you had the chance.

But then here we are – support leaders, worship ministers. The Bible refers to us as Levites (1 Pet. 2:9). There are many aspects of the Levites that are amazing to study as it relates to us as New Testament Levites, but the one we will look at here is our relationship to our Senior Pastor, pastors, and elders.

Num. 8:19 “And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel...”

God has called us to be **gifts** to our Senior Pastor, pastors, and elders (Aaron and his sons). What an interesting concept. What happens in you when you get a gift? Sometimes, you get a gift and you wish the gift hadn't been given to you in the first place. We're not talking about that kind of gift.

The kind of gift God wants us to be to our Senior Pastor, pastors, and elders, is a gift that...

- 1) Brings _____
Your acts of faithfulness, submission, and selfless serving make ministry a little bit easier for your leaders. God has placed a large mantle of responsibility on their shoulders. When you come along side them and support them in what God has called them to do, you are a true gift.

- 2) _____
What a blessing it is to your pastors and leaders when they see people coming around them to support and serve them as they serve the Lord. They have given their lives for the cause of Christ for your city/region. You are a blessing to them.

- 3) _____
It is easy for your Senior Pastor to take tasks upon him/herself that other people could do for them. You are the kind of gift God intended you to be when you recognize that God has given your Senior Pastor a specific calling and you begin to take on the routine tasks so that he/she can focus on that calling. Ultimately, it will lead to the entire church being led into a more effective place of ministry.

- 4) Doesn't _____ / _____
We need to have the heart of Jonathan's armor bearer...

"Do what you think is best... I'm with you completely, whatever you decide" (1 Sam. 14:7, NLT).

When we are given a task, given new direction, or undergoing change, our leaders need to know that our answer will always be, "Do what you think is best, I'm with you completely." A man/woman of God will not take advantage of that, but be *even more* sure of his/her actions knowing that you have this attitude.

- 5) Is ready, _____
- David had many "mighty men" who were always ready and willing to serve, fight for, and do anything the king required of them. As stated in 2 Tim. 4:2, they were "ready in season and out of season." This means that, no matter whether we are scheduled to serve on a particular day or not, we should be ready and willing to do whatever is asked of us. One of the greatest gifts to a Senior Pastor or other leader is knowing that there is a person who will be ready for the unexpected, one who can be counted on in time of need.

So, are you one who brings a smile to the face of your Senior Pastor, pastors, and elders because you exhibit the qualities listed above? Or are you one who cannot be counted on because of a lack in these areas? When we are truly a "gift" to our pastors and leaders, we are helping to set into motion a force that is hard to stop. It is the Church of Jesus Christ functioning as it is was intended from the beginning of creation - a church that experiences the blessings, favor, and power of God through proper submission to and honor of spiritual authority.

II. Discussion

- 1) What happens in a church when the Senior Pastor, pastors, or elders are left to run after the vision of God for your church on their own?
- 2) What are some of the ways that you can practically be a "gift" to your...
 - a. Senior Pastor?
 - b. Elders?
 - c. Pastors?
 - d. Worship Leader(s)?
- 3) What are the spiritual byproducts in the church when support ministry (i.e. the worship ministry) embraces their role as "gifts" and operates as such?
- 4) What are the tangible, natural byproducts in the church when support ministry (i.e. the worship ministry) embraces their role as "gifts" and operates as such?

III. Prayer Points

- 1) Pray that God would unify the worship team around the goal of being true “gifts” to the Senior Pastor, pastors, and elders of the church.
- 2) Pray that your leaders would be refreshed as they devote their lives to seeing the vision of God for your church come to pass.
- 3) Pray that God would equip you and give you the grace and strength to be ready “in season and out of season” – whether to step into new areas of ministry, new levels in the worship ministry, or whatever else may be asked of you individually.