

THE QUALITY OF THE LIFE OF THE PASTOR

A man with the character of Christ

Col. 3:12: Chosen by God to reflect the image and the character of Christ manifested with some strong, visible values: **compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, forgiveness, love** which binds everything together in perfect harmony, the **peace** of Christ, that rule hearts in the inevitable human conflicts with reconciliation.

Paul in **1Tim. 3:2** *Now a bishop must be above reproach...*

Challenges:

Joh. 12:26 *If any one serves me, he must follow me.*

Mat. 10:24 *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master..*

Mat. 10:25 *..it is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.*

A man with a healthy family life

1Tim 3:2, 4 His family is characterised by quality.

- **His wife:** *Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Pr 31:25-28*
- **His children & grown-up sons and daughters:** **Pr 20:7** *A righteous man who walks in his integrity: blessed are his sons after him!* Their behaviour will express their parents integrity and blessing. Even if they are not yet committed Christian.

Challenges:

1) marriage health.

Gn 2:18 *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" . (ebr.kenegdo: against him.) The Rashi Ebrew Commentary says: If a man deserves it, woman will be a help for him, if he won't, she will be against him and fight him. Dictionary Ovadia translate the word **Kenegdo**: "a correspondent help to him". He doesn't take it for granted and invests into it.*

- **2) children heritage.** The ex. of the sons of Eli versus the biblical recommendation: *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Pr. 22.6*

A relational, loyal and committed man

The church is a net of related people. Like a body where many different members are in relationship and communication with one another.

Eph 4:15-16 *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined **and knit together by every joint** with which it is supplied, when each part **is working properly**, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.*

The life of a pastor is called to be a model of life, where commitment and loyalty are the values of relationship. The feeling that people will have is that they can trust him. They can count on him at any time.. for life.

Challenge: Relationship have their conflictual sides but he understands the implication of: *What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."* Mt 19.6

Further references: **1 Co 4.1; Gal 5.22;**

A man of integrity

Meaning: uncorrupted. Whole. Blameless. Pure.

Tito 2:7 *Show yourself in all respects a model of good deeds, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech that cannot be censured, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.*

- 1) **Manipulation** of truths & information in order to orientate choices, decisions and events the way we want is a tool that often is used in pastoral ministry. Reaching objectives is important, the temptation is to change people's mind with human and not spiritual ways.
- 2) **Image.** Is important, especially for a pastor. But there is the possibility that the external image is artificial, more like a nice suit that covers and protect hidden sins and weaknesses.
- 3) **Money.** Finances are a very delicate issue. Where we should be as transparent as possible. If we run a fundraising ministry, we should accept to have an auditor's report to prove absolute integrity. Integrity has to do with justice: correct relationships. **Pr 11:20** *Men of perverse mind are an abomination to the LORD, but those of blameless ways are his delight.*

Challenge: to recognise over himself a true authority to give **real** account to.

Further references: **Eph 4.1; Ga 6.16; Ps 119.1; Pr 13.6**

A man of discipline

1Co 9:27 ..I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

1 Pt 4:1-2 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same thought, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer by human passions but by the will of God.

Challenge: Personal sanctification – Prayer – Bible study – Emotions – Workaholic

Further references: Pr 25.28; Mt 5.29, Na 2.1; Pr. 16.32, 1 Pt 1. 3-11

A man with an attitude of service

Lk 22:27 For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Like Jesus, his servanthood lifestyle gives credibility to the Gospel and open the heart of the people.

Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. The best way to share Jesus today!

Challenge: Remain with an attitude of servanthood even if he has many who serve him.

Further references: Mk 10.45, Mt 20.25-27; Eph 6.6; 2 tm 2.24; Lk 17.10; Mt 25.21

A humble listener

Es 50:5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. He might have his own convictions, plans or strategies but he doesn't despise to listen earnestly to others. He allows them to speak into his life, remains open to receive from the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls through anyone.

Challenge: He doesn't fear or avoid criticism and is prepared for correction, changes, teaching.

Further references: Pr. 1.5; 2.1-5,10-11; 21.28; 1 Joh 4.6

A courageous leader

1Tess. 2:2 but though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the face of great opposition. (..) but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but to please God who tests our hearts.

Challenge: He withstands suffering, misunderstanding, contradiction, persecution, pressures.

Further references: Jos 1.9; Pr. 24.10; Es 40.31; Es. 50.5

A passionate person for the ministry

1st passion: ministry to Christ.

1Co. 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

2nd passion: ministry to the natural family.

Eph 5.25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

3^d passion: ministry to the church: 2Cor. 11:28– A pastor that "weds" his community.

4th passion: ministry to the World: Mt 28.19-20 – He never forgets Jesus mandate to the World.

Challenge: He respects priorities, resists overworking, has quality time with family and friends.

Further references: Mt 9.12; 1 Tm 2.1-4; Ic 19.10, Lc 23.28; 1 Joh 3.16; 1 Pt 5.2

A master of communication

1Co 14:8 And if the trumpet gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?

Eph. 4.6-16: Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. It is all about right communication.

Procedure: Seek and receive. Understand. Experience. Compare. Adjust. Teach.

Teaching by example, preaching, exhorting, instructing, inspecting.

Challenge: you get not what you expect but what you inspect.

Further references: Jm 3; Mt 5.37; Eph 4.15,25,29; 2 Tm 2.14-15;

A man who equip others

The objective of his ministry is to give what he has and is, to equip his and the next generation to live reach the purpose of their life. Not to follow success, seek power, satisfy human desires, be the N° 1.

Challenge: Do it yourself might appear easier, quicker, better. But doesn't teach and equip others.

Further references: Eph 4.12; 1 Tm 4.12; Mt 10.1,5,8

A researcher for excellence

Jesus deserves the excellence in all he does. Like Mary who took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. Joh 12:3

Challenge: Quantity might mean: less quality.

Further references: Gn 1.31; Dt 6.5; Ecc. 9.10; Mt 5.16

