

“Honoring the Shepherd Among Us”



A Pastor's Appreciation Day Message

Anchor Text

1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NIV)

"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

Introduction

Honor is the act of recognizing and esteeming the value of another person. It's not just respect—it's reverence, appreciation, and intentional elevation.

- We honor not because someone is perfect, but because they are made in the image of God.
- **Romans 13:7** -"Give to everyone what you owe them.....If respect, then respect, if honor, then honor"
- We celebrate the grace of God over their lives for their continuous faithful service.

Their calling is sacred, their labor is tireless, and their impact is eternal. Pastor Appreciation Day is our opportunity to reflect on the biblical mandate to honor those who lead us in the Lord. -

1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (AMP)

I. The Calling of a Pastor

Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV)

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

- Pastors are not self-appointed; they are divinely called.
- They are entrusted with the spiritual nourishment of the flock.
- Their role is not just to preach, but to guide, protect, and intercede - (Like Jesus- **John 17:12**),

Many a time our pastors have prayed for you, counseled you, or stood by you in crisis. That's the heart of a shepherd.

II. The Work of a Pastor

Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account."

- Pastors carry a weighty responsibility: **soul care**.
- Their work often goes unseen—late nights, hospital visits, sermon preparation, spiritual warfare. "They take care of us from Cradle to Death"
- They are accountable not just to the church, but to God.

How can we lighten their load? Through prayer, encouragement, and practical support.

Don't be like Judas Iscariot - **John 6:70 (AMP).**, **1 Thess 5:11**

III. The Honor Due to a Pastor

1 Timothy 5:17 (NIV),

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."

- "Double honor" means respect, gratitude, and generosity.
- Honor is shown through words, actions, and attitudes.
- A healthy church honors its leaders as an act of worship to God.-**1 Thess 2:8**

Let's not wait for a special day to show appreciation. Make it a lifestyle.

IV. The Blessing of Honoring God's Servants

Philippians 1:3–5 (NIV)

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

- Honoring pastors strengthens the bond of unity.
- It encourages them to continue in their calling with joy.
- It invites God's blessing on the church.

When we honor our pastors, we honor the God who sent them.

Closing Challenge:

Let us commit to:

- Praying for our pastors daily.
- Encouraging them with words of affirmation.
- Supporting them with our time, talents, and resources.
- Honoring them not just today, but every day.

Romans 10:15 (NIV)- "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Let us joyfully celebrate the beautiful feet of our pastors who walk with us, lead us, and bring us the good news of Jesus Christ daily