

*Lifting Up God's servants as they:*  
**Love neighbors through *doing life* with other Jesus followers**

John 13:34–35; 2 Timothy 2:2

- Provide appropriate time off and finances for conventions, seminars, conferences, and continuing education—separate from vacations.
- Encourage and support involvement in men's and women's activities—without pressure to “lead” them.
- Encourage and support participation in a community-wide pastor's covenant group where peer encouragement and accountability are available.
- Encourage your pastor's wife to establish friendships both in the church and in the broader Kingdom community.
- Invite your pastor along on fun outings—fishing, hunting, sailing, or golf. Don't talk about church, just relax.
- Invite your pastor or pastor's wife out for lunch—not to talk church—but to relate.
- Allow for and support reasonable time away to serve other churches, previous ministries, or kingdom initiatives.
- Invite your ministry couple or family to enjoy a favorite vacation spot, community celebration, or sporting event.
- Initiate caring involvement when your ministry family faces life-challenges, like sickness or death. Celebrate with them in the joys of life—such as new baby, graduations, weddings, etc.
- Encourage your ministry leaders to find their own mentors in the faith. Support your leaders as they disciple others both inside and outside your church.

*Lifting Up God's servants as they:*  
**Lovingly witness through imparting their very lives and the gospel**

1 Thessalonians 2:7–8; Acts 4:13

- Encourage your pastor's involvement in activities, hobbies, sports, and events which provide opportunities for outreach.
- Celebrate and affirm your pastor when he shares the gospel in the everyday rhythms of life.
- Support and encourage your ministry family's involvement in their neighborhood and community as they do life with unchurched people.
- Celebrate and affirm ministry family involvement in Kingdom works of compassion and justice.
- Initiate strategies which connect ministers with the marketplace as Kingdom principles are applied to work, business, school, and community.
- Celebrate and affirm whole-life discipleship where the Good News is lived and shared as a part of the pastor's identity, not merely a job on Sunday.
- Affirm the Concentric Circles of Discipleship as pastors disciple their own families, mentor others, and reach and disciple the unchurched.
- Encourage and celebrate a lifestyle of prayer for the unreached—through prayer lists, prayer walks, and prayer gatherings.
- Encourage and celebrate a lifestyle of caring for the unreached—through compassion and love as one who “has been with Jesus”. (Acts 4:13).
- Encourage and celebrate a lifestyle of sharing with the unreached—through listening to their story, sharing our story, and imparting His story.

For more information  
[Care4Pastors.com](http://Care4Pastors.com)



## Pastor Appreciation

But you yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts. . .

2 Corinthians 3:2

# 50 WAYS TO BLESS YOUR PASTOR

*Lifting Up God's servants as they*

- Love the Lord
- Love their spouse
- Love their children and family
- Love neighbors through *doing life* with other Jesus followers
- Lovingly witness through imparting their very lives and the gospel

## Lifting Up God's servants as they: Love the Lord

1 John 4:19; Matthew 22:37–38

- Pray regularly for your ministers and their families.
- Form a covenant group who is committed to praying daily for your ministers; seven members praying one day a week.
- Offer prayer for your pastor before worship services.
- Encourage and support at least one day of “Sabbath rest”; lovingly insist that your pastor take off at least one day each week.
- Encourage and support an annual *spiritual renewal* retreat to refresh your pastor's intimacy with the Lord.
- Send notes of encouragement that affirm your pastor's Christ-like character—their compassion, integrity, courage, dependability, etc.
- Resist any negative comments or comparisons related to your pastor; talk to your pastor directly if you have any concerns.
- Care for your pastor's health by providing or encouraging annual check-ups, wellness plans, health club memberships and insurance.
- Vulnerably and specifically share how God has used your pastor to challenge, enrich, and encourage your walk with Jesus.
- Most pastors resist “receiving” so ASK, ASK, and ASK again, “How can I serve you? Support you? Help you?”

## Lifting Up God's servants as they: Love their spouse

1 Peter 3:7; Matthew 22:39

- Provide more than adequate, even generous salary, insurance, and retirement compensation.
- Give a gift card to a favorite restaurant for the ministry couple's date night.
- Allow your pastor's wife to “be herself” and to be as involved in ministry as the couple discerns is best.
- Encourage and financially support your pastor and wife as they attend marriage-strengthening events and getaways.
- Remember birthdays and wedding anniversaries with appropriate recognition, gifts, cards and blessings.
- Celebrate Pastor Appreciation each year with notes, cards, and gifts. It is very important to honor your pastor's spouse as well!
- Encourage and support an appropriate sabbatical from ministry after 5, 10, and 15+ years of ministry.
- Provide creative childcare options in order to support couple date nights and get-aways.
- Offer a church member's vehicle, camper, cabin or time share so that your pastor and spouse can more easily get away for times of renewal.
- Surprise your ministry couple with an unexpected note, card, email, or text just to communicate, “We're thinking of you and praying for God's blessing”

## Lifting Up God's servants as they: Love their children and family

Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 22:6

- Allow your pastor's children to *just be kids*. Encourage them to be as involved in church activities as the family discerns is best.
- Give unused sports or concert tickets to your pastor's family. They make great gifts!
- Provide adequate and appropriate paid vacation—and lovingly insist on it being used.
- Provide for and protect your ministry family's privacy, days off, and vacation time.
- Be intentional about getting to know your pastor's children—their interests, hobbies, and activities. Then be sure to ask about and support those interests.
- Encourage your ministry family to have *family friends* in the church—without jealousy, pressure or expectations.
- Acknowledge and celebrate ministry children's birthdays, accomplishments and victories.
- Surprise your ministry family with an appreciative card and an appropriate, family-friendly gift.
- Bless your ministry family with a special Christmas or anniversary gift to communicate that, “We're excited that the Lord has blessed us with each of you!”
- Gift cards or service coupons are always a blessing—family restaurants, grocery stores, water parks, housecleaning, yard work, tree trimming, babysitting, or coupons for car repairs.

### GREAT COMMISSION LIVING

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28: 19–20)

### EMPOWERED BY

### GREAT COMMANDMENT LOVE

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind . . . and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37–39)