

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 spouse out for lunch—not to talk about 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 Leader Care 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



Lifting Up God's Servants

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 getaways.
- 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)