

Ten Ways To Bless Your Pastor *By Melanie Stone*

I've always celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day as days to bless mom and dad for all the things they've done for us. It's just one way for children, young or old, to honor their parents. It's not about gifts, money or cards, but it is about love. We honor them because it is an expression of grateful hearts for the position they hold in our lives.

Honoring people in authority over us is a big Bible principle, found throughout both the old and new testaments. Honor is written of in regard to children to parents, employees to employers, wives to husbands, citizens to kings and Christians to their heavenly Father. Honor is a characteristic of God and a quality God values. Honor is a culture of the kingdom of heaven. It often clashes with the kingdom of this world, but we know lightness and darkness are opposite of each other. We just need to be careful not to allow the ideas of the world to get into the church. Honoring a pastor is a Biblical principle.

Honor is something that goes all around and touches everyone. Honor is something we all should do for those in authority, for our peers, and for those under our authority. Honor is a characteristic of love, the God-kind of love. If we are like God, we will love, and we will honor.

We have a lot of pastor friends, and I pray for them often. I'm married to a pastor, and I think of the ways the people in our church have blessed us. They are such an encouragement! Here are a few simple ideas (in no particular order) for anyone interested in being a blessing to their pastor:

1. **PRAY** for your pastor and his or her family. When you lift someone up in prayer before God, God will give you His heart for your leader. Your prayers make a difference!
2. **LOVE** your pastor and his or her family with the unconditional agape love of God, and find ways to demonstrate that love whenever you get the chance.
3. **SPEAK** words of life over your pastor among the church family, your family and people outside of your church. Words are powerful, and whether they are spoken in the open or in secret, God hears and pays attention to what is honorable and what is dishonorable.
4. **THINK** the best of your pastor. If you ever question his or her integrity, go to them directly. If you ever hear gossip about your pastor, don't spread it, go to your pastor and uncover the works of the enemy.
5. **SERVE** your pastor. A servant's heart doesn't just pick and choose what they want to do. They do what is needed and what is requested.
6. **ADAPT** your ministry to the church vision so the church can work together in unity of purpose.

7. ATTEND church services and functions. Be faithful to serve on a team and in outreaches. Your presence means more than you know.
8. OBEY the Scriptures and return God's tithe (ten percent of your increase) to the local church. Those funds belong to God and help your church to operate and pay expenses. When possible, give towards church projects to help the vision come to pass.
9. GET ALONG with other people in the church. Do your best to live in peace with one another.
10. RESPECT the pastor's personal time with God and time with his or her family.

These are just a few ideas. If you have any other ideas or examples of honoring your pastor, please send them to us! We love to hear what other people are doing for the kingdom.

Thank you for wanting to be a blessing to your pastor!