

1. The pastor of a church of any size (even a couple of dozen members) is a busy man if he is doing the job God wants him to do. *He needs people to take jobs and do them, rather than to give him more jobs to do.* He cannot do everything.
 - a. He spends a number of hours on each lesson and message that he preaches each week, and study time needs to be somewhat uninterrupted.
 - b. He spends time in prayer each day.
 - c. He oversees the church event schedule, condition of facilities, and all workers in all ministries. He is continually planning for future events, adjusting calendars, deciding details, etc.
 - d. He is contacted daily by church members, missionaries, other pastors, people who do business with the church, and church staff (by phone, email, surface mail, or in person).
 - e. He probably spends two or three evenings a week teaching discipleship, Bible institute, or in other church activities, and also spends at least two nights a week in church (i.e. Wednesday and Sunday).
 - f. If there is a church school, the oversight of that organization is also on his schedule.
 - g. He has a family, home, care, etc. to take care of. He needs personal time with God, time to rest, and time to care for his health.

2. *The pastor is not your enemy: he is on your side.* Even a pastor of weak character or who lacks absolute dedication to his role is where he is because he cares for God's work, people, and souls.
 - a. The devil often gets church members to stop trusting the pastor, and then wrecks their lives.
 - b. Many people seek to find fault with the pastor when he gives them counsel that they do not approve of. Their assumption is that, if they can find fault with the pastor, they can ignore his counsel. This is a very ungodly thing to do.

3. *The pastor knows things that most people don't know.* He is not someone who should be disregarded or whose counsel should be treated lightly.
 - a. He has seen many examples of what sin can do in people's lives, and that is why he is so quick to react to things like a teen who is dressing to please the world, a member who is absent from church too often, or many other things that he sees that alarm him but not you.

4. *The pastor is human too.*
 - a. Pastors are not perfect, and those that act perfect are even less. Don't expect the pastor to be perfect and don't force him to act that way.
 - b. When the pastor shows his human side, treat him the way you like to be treated when you show your human side.
 - c. He has opinions, flaws, weaknesses, eccentricities, and problems like everyone else. He has probably learned not to make them public, but they come out now and then.
 - d. He is not perfect, but he is doing the best job that he can with what God has given him to work with.

5. *The pastor has an obligation to take a stand alongside the Bible in all things.*
 - a. He cannot compromise for the sake of your loved one who wants him to tolerate their sin in order to please you.
 - b. He must tell men the truth, even when they don't like it.
 - c. He must protect the church (sheep), invoke church discipline, and do things that may not appear to be "loving" but which are best for the flock.

6. *The pastor cannot be every church member's close personal friend.*
 - a. The pastor cares for the flock and spends time with them, but individual's may not get regular attention because of the time constraints.

7. *It doesn't do anyone any good when you talk bad about the pastor.*
 - a. It doesn't help you, it makes you bitter and prevents you from being helped or listening to what he has to say.
 - b. It doesn't help others, it makes them anxious or it can draw them into a problem that hurts them.
 - c. It doesn't help the pastor, it hurts him that people he is trying to help are trying to injure him in return.

8. *When you don't show up to church, it hurts the pastor.*
 - a. He spent much time preparing a message or lesson for your benefit.
 - b. He is discouraged when people don't care enough to show up to services.
 - c. He is there every time the doors are open, and it would be proper for you to be also.

9. *The pastor is not an amateur or novice when it comes to doctrine.*
 - a. If you think you know more about the Bible than he does, you had better think again.
 - b. When you disagree with him, you should talk to him and be ready to learn, not to teach.
 - c. The new Christian is vulnerable to receiving all sorts of false doctrine. Let the pastor correct you. Don't cling to heresy that he disapproves of.
 - d. Never try to teach others something that the pastor would not approve of.
 - e. If you cannot agree to learn from the pastor, you should not be in the church.

10. *The pastor will help you if you let him.*
 - a. If you leave the church, he cannot help you.
 - b. If you won't do what he says, he cannot help you.
 - c. If you are not telling him the whole truth, he probably cannot help you.
 - d. If you do not trust him, he cannot help you.
 - e. If you talk about him, rebel against him, get bitter towards him, or dislike him, he cannot help you.
 - f. If you won't come to church, he cannot help you very much.
 - g. If you will not do your part, he cannot help you.