

*Cadre Ministries International • Volunteer Training Issues*

# **7** Biblical Ways God Wants **YOU** to Encourage Your Pastor

*by Bill Allison with Dave Garda*

**Excerpt sample from [cadreministries.com](http://cadreministries.com)**

# Seven Biblical Ways God Wants YOU to Encourage Your Pastor

A pastor was making his rounds on a bicycle to visit people when he came upon a little boy trying to sell a lawn mower. *“How much do you want for the mower?”* the pastor asked.

*“I just want enough money to buy a bicycle,”* the little boy responded.

After a moment of consideration, the pastor said, *“Will you trade your mower for my bike?”*

The little boy asked if he could try out the bike first, and, after riding the bike around a little while, said, *“Mister, you’ve got yourself a deal.”*

The pastor took the mower and began to pull the chord to try to start it. He pulled on the rope a few times but got no response from the mower. The pastor looked at the little boy and said, *“I can’t get this mower to start.”*



The little boy said, *“That’s because you have to cuss at it to get it started.”*

The pastor said, *“I’m a minister, and I can’t cuss. It’s been so long since I’ve been saved, I don’t even remember how to cuss.”*

The little boy looked at him happily, started to peddle off, and said, *“Just keep pulling that chord. It’ll come back to ya.”*

**Are pastors really human?** While many view pastors as spiritual superheroes—who always have the answers and never falter or fail—the truth is pastors are painfully human.

Like us, pastors sometimes make unwise—even sinful—decisions. Like us, they sometimes bring problems on themselves. Like us, they love God intensely but are vexingly vulnerable. Like us, they get discouraged from time to time. ***This is precisely why we need to take seriously what the Bible says about our responsibility to support and encourage our pastors.*** When we speak of encouraging your pastor, we mean any and all pastors at your church: senior pastor, associate pastor(s), youth pastor, children's pastor, etc.

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**Pastors need to be encouraged because they...**

*...are painfully human*

*...are sometimes unwise... even sinful*

*...bring problems on themselves*

*...are vexingly vulnerable*

*...get discouraged*

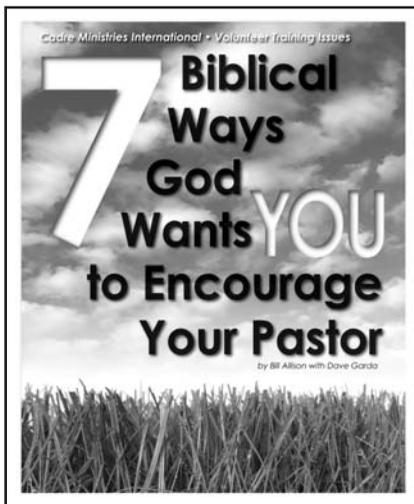


**In short, they are just like you.**

## Will You Encourage Your Pastor?

In an amazing experiment, scientists set out to test an animal's survival instincts. The scientists dropped a rat into a large jar of water that had been placed in complete darkness. They wanted to see how long the animal would continue to swim before it finally gave up and allowed itself to drown. **What did they find?** They found that the animal usually lasted little more than three minutes in complete darkness before giving up.

Then the scientists dropped a second rat into the same water-filled jar, but instead of putting it in total darkness, they allowed one ray of light to shine onto the jar. Under those conditions, the animal kept swimming for thirty-six hours. That's over seven hundred times longer. It seems that because of the single ray of light it continued to swim.



***God wants you to be that ray of light, hope and encouragement to your pastor. Will you? Why not start a movement in your church to encourage and support your pastor right now?***

What would your church be like if you seriously entered into a covenant with God, one another and your pastor to apply these seven biblical ways to encourage your pastor?



# My Covenant with God, One Another and Our Pastor

## 1. I pray specifically and consistently for our pastor.

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

## 2. I give freely of my time, talents and spiritual gifts so that our pastor can direct the affairs of the church—rather than the pastor doing the entire ministry alone.

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor... (1 Timothy 5:17)*

## 3. I give cheerfully and liberally to God to provide for the physical and material needs of our pastor's family.

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18)*

## 4. I refuse to listen to or spread gossip about our pastor.

*Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. (1 Timothy 5:19, bold added. See also Proverbs 17:4)*

## 5. I lovingly and privately correct our pastor when there is sin and offer grace on issues of style and preference.

*If a brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. (Matthew 18:15)*

## 6. I do everything in my power to make sure our pastor flourishes in family relationships (spouse and children).

*If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? (1 Timothy 3:5)*

## 7. I obey and submit to the leadership and oversight of our pastors/elders.

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Seven Biblical Ways God Wants You to Encourage Your Pastor

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**50%** of pastors feel they are unable to meet the demands of the job.

**90%** feel they were inadequately trained to cope with the demands of ministry.

**33%** have seriously considered leaving the pastorate.

You can make a difference in your pastor's life.

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## **How you can use this tool...**

- SMALL GROUPS
- LEADERSHIP RETREATS
- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- PERSONAL STUDY

**[www.cadreministries.com](http://www.cadreministries.com)**

