

# 10 INSIGHTS FOR A CHURCH PLANTER

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Here are some quick nuggets of insight for a pioneer pastor:

## **HAVE A TRUE MENTOR AND HOME CHURCH FOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

Too many ministers are endeavoring to fly on their own or to pick voices in their life who they know will affirm what they are doing at the time rather than having a consistent voice of authority. You need someone to share testimonies and struggles with. Having appropriate leadership accountability will help you avoid embarrassing financial and moral shortfalls.

## **NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN WITH TECHNOLOGY**

Along with its many benefits, modern technology brings more sin options to our fingertips. In the past, people had to sneak out to buy pornography, but now it may show up on our devices completely uninvited. Create transparency and accountability with your spouse and leaders to avoid the snares of the enemy within the digital world.

## **DON'T LET YOUR ONLY HEROES BE INTERNET BASED**

It's great to have heroes from afar, but you need a hero who can look you straight in the eye from time to time. It's too easy with modern technology to get enamored by what others are doing while neglecting your relationship with your own personal mentor.

## **LEARN TO BALANCE YOUR TIME**

Self-discipline is becoming a lost virtue in our society. A worn-out pastor will often become a part of the problems instead of finding a solution to problems. Family, secular jobs, and church management will all weigh you down if they are not balanced properly with intentionality. There are multiple resources available to the pastor who is out of balance: books to read, successful ministries to look up to, and (last but certainly not least) the Word of God.

## **BE CAREFUL OF GOATS**

Don't become hyper focused on the goats while the sheep starve. Goats are people who have no desire

to change, but can easily use up all your time and resources. Learn to love the goats at arm's length. Sheep many times will not even let you know they are in need. One tip that I learned early on was to handle problems directly after service in the altar or at the pew. I would advise that you very rarely use the pastoral office aside from extreme cases.

## **BEWARE OF THE RETREAT MINDSET**

There is pressure to turn your church into a retreat center from the battles of life rather than a place to re-arm for the battles we must face. A church in a retreat mindset will not grow because it is too easy to become hyper focused on making people comfortable rather than creating an atmosphere of Godly conviction. Instead, create a culture of discipleship through Bible studies and preaching.

## **PREACH THE MEAT**

Babies have got to grow, so don't be afraid to preach the meat. Those who remain on milk for too long tend to become bratty whiners. Preach the truth in love. Holiness principles must be heard from the pulpit and not just home bible studies. As the saying goes, "As goes the pulpit, so goes the church."

## **AVOID EVANGELISM APATHY**

A church that loses its fire for evangelism usually settles into a maintenance mode of just trying to hold what they have together. Brother pastor, let's not forget the dream that brought us to our city. The treasure is still in the field.

## **STEER CLEAR OF TURF WARS**

Turf wars will destroy the church. Internal or external conflict over positions and privileges have no place in the kingdom of God. It's tough to reach the lost when there is fighting for power within the local church or organization. Sinners are not interested into stepping from their battlefield to another one you've have created. Keep and maintain a healthy environment in the church of leadership growth and camaraderie.

## **TRUST THE CALLING**

Insecure people obsess over themselves as much as (or more than) the arrogant. The challenge when your church isn't growing is that you will likely feel inadequate and insecure. Conversely, when your church begins to grow, ego will sometimes assert itself a little more and you may even be tempted to strut. You must understand both insecurity and inflated sense of self are forms of pride. Pride is simply an obsession with self. You are not nearly as bad as your last failure, and not nearly as good as your last success. Remember that you are building His kingdom and let God get the glory through our weaknesses and triumphs.

These are just a few quick nuggets for the church planter. Revival until he comes!



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