

Sunday, January 8, 2017
Did You Know?

Meeting with Your Pastor

A new year means another opportunity to meet with your pastor. Some may wonder what a pastor does. Well, according to the Bible they have several aspects to their job description, which include equipping God's people for works of service, preaching and teaching the Word, devoting themselves to pray, evangelizing, and pastoring (literally, shepherding) the flock, that is the church. The last aspect is why pastors love meeting with you. Why might you benefit from meeting with one of your pastors? I've come up with a few reasons:

1. **Discerning God's will.** There are many seasons in life where we are trying to discern how God is leading us. These may include things like what major to study, career choices, getting married and a plethora of other things. Your pastor can help you gain a fresh perspective or help you make a God-centered and God-glorifying decision.
2. **Struggling with sin.** The pastor possesses no special power to forgive your sins. Only God, through Jesus Christ, can forgive us. However, we are commanded in James 5:16 to confess our sins to each other and the context appears to imply that we are to share that with our pastor/elders. What benefit will come from that? Well, sin loves to hide and by confessing it to someone, you are freeing yourself from its power. There can be a measure of accountability as the pastor checks in on you from time to time to see how you are progressing. As well, the pastor can offer you Scriptural advice, or even help you discern a deeper issue that lies under the sin.
3. **Relational issues.** Everyone has relationship issues. We have issues with family members - parents, children, spouses, and siblings. We might have issues with our co-workers and even with church members. We will all encounter issues, problems and character flaws that will arise during dating, being married, and just going through the seasons of life. You may even have a relational issue with a pastor, and if you do, you better meet to get it resolved.
4. **Godly advice.** Infertility. Law suits. Inheritances. Difficult in-laws. Substance abuse. Parenting. Abortion. Money and finances. Materialism. Bible questions. Chat with one of your pastors to discuss any one of these or a host of other questions to receive their advice. Your pastors will try their best to base their advice on the Scriptures and godly wisdom.
5. **Looking to utilize your spiritual gifts.** You may be uncertain as to how God has gifted you or how your gifts might be best utilized for the greatest good in our church. Speak to a pastor and they will help you discover and apply your spiritual gifts.
6. **Understanding Christianity.** If you're not a Christian who wants to better understand Christianity, you should speak to any one of your Christian friends, but you may also want to speak to a pastor. We would love to make time for you.
7. **Prayer for sickness or going through grief.** You or a loved one may be ill, physically or mentally, or suffering through a season of grieving. The same passage in James tells us to call the elders/pastors of the church to come and pray for you.
8. **Spiritual update.** Your pastors would love to just catch up and hear how you're doing spiritually, to listen to and pray for you.
9. **Bless your pastor.** You can meet to encourage and thank your pastors, and buy them lunch.

Contact your pastors this year and schedule a friendly visit. We can meet at church, your home, or at a restaurant.

Pastor Peter