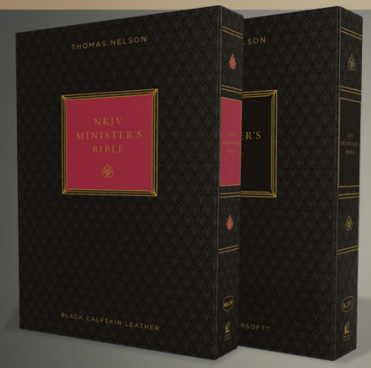


15 WAYS TO BLESS YOUR PASTOR

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1. Pray for Them

The Bible offers us many Scriptures on the importance of prayer as a daily habit. It's our way of communicating and surrendering needs and desires to God. It's serious stuff. It's holy.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
— 1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; — Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

When we pray, the Lord hears us. Isn't that amazing? When we choose to pray for our pastors, we are communicating to God the value we hold for them. We are also reminding ourselves of the thankfulness we have for them.

2. Buy Them Gifts

Giving gifts can be a great way to bless your pastor. It doesn't have to be expensive. It can be as simple as a gift card to their favorite store or a bag of candy (if your pastor happens to have a sweet tooth). The amount of money shouldn't be the focus; it's the thought and the spirit of thankfulness that should be driving your gift.

3. Provide a Meal

The responsibilities of pastoral life can make it hard for their families to enjoy simple activities, like sharing a meal together. One great way to show appreciation for your pastor is to prepare and deliver a meal. This will not only bless the pastor, but also remind the pastor's family that you understand their sacrifice for the church community.

If you don't have time to prepare a meal, there is always carryout!

4. Celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month

As you may be aware, the month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month. And, specifically, the second Sunday in October is Pastor Appreciation Day. Many Christian retail stores celebrate this event with special sales and inspiring ideas to bless your pastor. Make sure you mark your calendar (and the church bulletin board) so you don't forget.

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. — 1 Timothy 5:17 (NKJV)

5. Encourage the Community

A great way to bless your pastor is by encouraging participation in church activities. This could include recruiting and organizing volunteers, collecting donations, or simply hosting a supper club. Unifying the community encourages your pastor and expresses your appreciation for their leadership.

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. — Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)

6. Acknowledge Their Special Days

A great way to show appreciation for your pastor is to find out what days are important to them (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.) and acknowledge them each year with a phone call, special gift, or handwritten note. It's a simple gesture that will tell your pastor you value what they value.

7. Handwritten Notes

Most of us live in a culture that prefers to text rather than write a sincere and personal note. Taking the time to write a simple thank you note to your pastor for a specific sermon or event communicates that they are important, and you value their time.

8. Remember Family Names

Another task that sounds very simple but can be difficult in the busyness of life is to remember names. It's powerful to look someone in the eyes and call them by name. Think about how special (and welcomed) your pastor will feel if you not only know their name but the name of each member of their family.

9. Volunteer for Church Ministries

Senior pastors, especially at small churches, are often asked to wear many hats in ministry. From setting up on Sunday mornings to coordinating youth activities to preparing the sermon, pastors can often feel overwhelmed. That's why, when you volunteer for something, even if it seems like a small task, you are blessing your pastor more than you know.

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
— 1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)

10. Share Your Testimony

A good part of your pastor's week is spent listening to people and hearing what troubles them. Sharing your experiences and how God is at work in your life may be the blessing your pastor needs to encourage others. Share specific anecdotes of what God has done recently – both in your life and the lives of those closest to you.

I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. — Psalm 9:1 (NKJV)

11. Offer to Babysit

Pastors need to balance work and family life like everyone else. Being on call all the time can take its toll on relationships. Give your pastor a well-deserved break by offering to babysit. A “date night” with a spouse or going to an event with friends will give your pastor a chance to get out of the house and beyond the church walls.

12. Support Their Hobbies

Between Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and the core responsibilities of running a church, your pastor’s hobbies surely help to relieve the day-to-day stress. Take an interest in hearing about those hobbies and share your own. It’s a great opportunity for you and your pastor to get to know each other better.

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

— Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)

13. Verbal Encouragement

What we love about our pastors is that they don’t do what they do to be praised for it. In fact, they are traditionally in the business of encouraging others, not being encouraged. Don’t let that stop you from giving a supportive call during the week or a quick comment after service. Verbal acknowledgment can go a long way in boosting a pastor’s confidence and mood.

And Hezekiah gave encouragement to all the Levites who taught the good knowledge of the Lord.

— 2 Chronicles 30:22 (NKJV)

14. Give Feedback

A lot of prayer, time, and effort go into writing and delivering a sermon. Let your pastor know you’re listening by asking questions and engaging with the topics your pastor speaks on. Many pastors give the same message at several weekend services. Your quick encouraging feedback or meaningful anecdote of how the message will be applied in your life can be a tremendous blessing even for a later service.

15. Offer Comfort

When times are tough, pastors seek comfort like everyone else. Take note of what’s going on in your pastor’s life and be there, showing understanding and offering words of prayer. Get the congregation involved in providing any group support that may be needed.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

— 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NKJV)