

THE TOP 10 FUNDAMENTALS

lay-ministers should remember when operating their ministry under the umbrella of their church.

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1.

Remember your ministry is part of your church and as such must operate within the parameters set forth by your Pastor. The tail should not try to wag the dog.

“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

2.

Other ministries within your church are just as important as yours. Do not demand special treatment from your pastor or from your church. It can cause divisions within your church.

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.” Romans 12:3

3.

Be passionate about your ministry, but not to the point of being a nuisance to others in your church. Understand that everyone has a passion and their passion might not be the same as yours, but it may be just as important.

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:4-8

4.

Be actively involved in at least one other ministry in your church. You will learn from their efforts and you will build valuable relationships. It will also help you keep your ministry in perspective.

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.” Acts 4:32

5.

Instead of competing against other ministries within your church seek out ways that your ministries can work together. This will build support for your ministry and make your ministry more productive.

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16

6.

Do not depend on financing your ministry exclusively from within your church walls. Your congregation has only so much money to spread around, so if you call upon them too much you will drain funds away from other ministries and your church's general fund. Seek outside financing sources. Try community fundraising projects.

“Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.” 1 Thessalonians 2:9

7.

Do not argue with the other ministries of your church over money. Take the high road and learn from the experience so that the issue may be avoided in the future.

*“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”
1 Timothy 6:10*

8.

Raise up your volunteers. Remember that your ministry is not about you. It is about serving others. Make your pride and ego take a back seat and let your volunteers shine.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10

9.

Keep your nose in your own business. How others run their ministries is none of your concern so long as it does not adversely affect your ministry in a significant way.

“Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.” Proverbs 26:17

10.

Remember that the emphasis your church places on your ministry has no bearing on its importance to the LORD and those you serve. Seek out ways to accomplish your goals even if you do not feel your ministry receives the support you feel it deserves.

“We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.” 1 Thessalonians 2:6

BONUS

Do not speak badly of your pastors, ministry leaders or any other person within your congregation. This leads to doubt, ill-will and divisions which are not supportive of your ministry or the church.

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Proverbs 12:18