

The PASTOR

According to Ellen G.

White



General Conference
Ministerial Association




According to Ellen G. White,
what characteristics are
indispensable in a pastor?

1

Consecration

*“Dedication to the service and
worship of a deity.”*






*“What we need in this time of peril
is a converted ministry. We need
men who realize their soul poverty,
and who will earnestly seek for the
endowment of the Holy Spirit.”*

PaM 35





“Ministers have been presented to me, with their course of action and their character before they were converted—the hardest and most incorrigible, the most unbending, the most stubborn— and yet, every one of these traits of character was what they need in the work of God.”

PaM 36






2

Self-sacrifice

*“Renounce one’s own interests
and desires for duty or the
good of another.”*




“Some have felt that the lot of a preacher was hard because they had to be separated from their families. They forget that once it was harder laboring than it is now.”

PaM 36



“God’s chosen servants wept and prayed for a clear understanding of truth, and suffered privation and much self-denial in order to carry it to others... They did not study their own convenience or shrink at hardships...”





Everything has been made ready to the hands of ministers who have since embraced the truth, yet some of them have failed to take upon them the burden of the work. They seek for an easier lot, a less self-denying position.”

PaM 36



The president of the Haitian Union chose to construct a church with the money he received for a home. He continued living with his family in a tent.




It would take Pr. Norberto Carmona three months to visit all of his district and never did his wife complain because of it.



Pr. Luis Flores, in just one year, was imprisoned 6 times and a total of 10 times during his ministry.





*“This earth is not the
resting place of Christians,
much less for the chosen
ministers of God.”*

PaM 36




“If God appoints us hard labor to perform, we must do it without a murmur. If the path is difficult and dangerous, it is God’s plan to have us follow in meekness and cry unto Him for strength.”



*A lesson is to be learned
from the experience of
some of our ministers who
have known nothing
comparatively of
difficulties and trials, yet
ever look upon themselves
as martyrs.”*

PaM 37





“The work of the minister should be pursued with an earnestness, energy, and zeal as much greater than that put forth in business transactions as the labor is more sacred and the result more momentous.”

4T 442



3 *Compassion*



“A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.”

Compassion for whom?

- *For oneself as a human being.*
- *For one's own family like one's fold.*
- *For the church one is shepherding.*
- *For the children and youth of the church.*
- *For the brethren that lead us.*
- *For colleagues who lead.*
- *For those who do not know Jesus.*




“Brother A, you need to work with the utmost diligence to control self and develop a character in harmony with the principles of the Word of God. You need to educate and train yourself in order to become a successful shepherd.”



You need to cultivate a good temper—kindly, cheerful, buoyant, generous, pitiful, courteous, compassionate traits of character.





*You should overcome a morose,
bigoted, narrow, faultfinding,
overbearing spirit. If you are
connected with the work of God you
need to battle with yourself vigorously
and form your character after the
divine Model.”*

PaM 37



4

***Positive
attitude***



“No greater evidence need be asked that a person is at a great distance from Jesus, and living in neglect of secret prayer, neglecting personal piety, than the fact that he thus talks doubts and unbelief because his surroundings are not favorable...”



*They have a religion of
circumstance... But as
soon as adversity seems to
come upon the cause, and
the work drags heavily,*



*and the help of everyone is
needed, these poor souls,
though they may be professed
ministers of the gospel, expect
everything to come to nought.
These hinder instead of
helping.”*

2T 514






5

Trustworthy

*“Dependable, reliable, deserving
of confidence.”*





“Religious light is to shine forth from the church, and especially from the ministers, in clear, steady rays. It is not to flame up on special occasions, and then grow dim, and flicker, as if about to go out.”

PaM 39



“IF A MINISTER IS NOT RELIABLE, OTHER GIFTS CANNOT MAKE UP FOR IT—

Brother C can speak in a manner to interest a congregation, and if this were all that is necessary to make a successful preacher, then a class of brethren and sisters would be right in their estimation of him. But he is not a thorough workman; he is not reliable.”

PaM 39



6

Humility

*“Modest opinion of one’s own
importance or rank.”*



*“Your danger will ever be
in despising counsel and
in placing a higher value
on yourself than God
places upon you.*



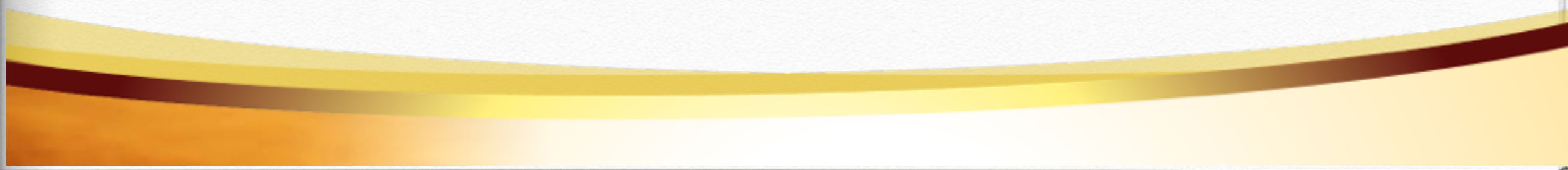
There are many who are always ready to flatter and praise a minister who can talk. A young minister is ever in danger of being petted and applauded to his own injury, while at the same time he may be deficient in the essentials which God requires of everyone who professes to be a mouthpiece for Him.”

4T 376





7 *Responsibility*




Responsibility for whom?

- *God who called him to the ministry.*
- *The field work that has welcomed him.*
- *The church that loves and supports him.*
- *His family who depends so much on him.*
- *His own salvation.*



*“No part of the minister’s
duty is to be neglected. He is
to preach the Word, not the
opinions of men.”*





*He is to labor with individuals,
to visit families, not simply to
talk of the commonplace
happenings, but of things of
eternal interest, praying with
them, and teaching in all
simplicity the truth of God.”*


PaM 40



“The work of the minister represented by the seven stars is a high and sacred work. When he entertains the idea that his work is comprehended in sermonizing, he overlooks, and is sure to neglect, the work devolving upon a shepherd of the flock. It is his work to have care, to oversee the flock, to so arrange the elements of the church that each may have something to do.”

RH May 31, 1887, par. 8





“Satan will work by any and every means which he can employ to discourage the active servants of God. If the shepherd can be beguiled from his duty, then the way is clear for wolves to scatter and devour the sheep.”

PaM 38

