

IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING STRIFE SCENARIOS

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HOW A DIVISIVE SPIRIT COMES IN TO DIVIDE A CHURCH STAFF (Scenarios)

A member who is under your department becomes jealous for you over the pastor and begins to stroke you.

A member with whom you have spent much time counseling or helping meet a need becomes jealous for you over the pastor and begins to stroke you.

A member wants to designate their tithe to you instead of giving to the general fund. You don't inform the pastor.

Your wife becomes jealous for you over the pastor.

Your wife becomes jealous for you over another staff member.

You become jealous for yourself over another staff member.

You become jealous for yourself over the pastor.

You want a pay raise or your wife wants a pay raise for you; and you don't talk to the pastor. Instead you let your desire boil and fester rather than communicating.

You begin to compare your material prosperity with the pastor's prosperity.

You begin to compare your material prosperity with another staff member's prosperity.

You begin to compare your salary with the pastor's.

You begin to compare your salary with another staff members.

You share an idea with the pastor and the pastor decides against it or sets it on a shelf for a season, and you take the rejection of your idea as a personal affront/personal rejection. Or your wife reacts the same.

You feel that there is something wrong between you and the pastor, or another staff member. You continue to have these feelings even after praying about it. Instead of going to the pastor or other staff member to talk and pray about it together, you let it fester and grow. The same applies with your wife concerning the pastor (or his wife) or the staff member (or his wife).

You begin to feel God leading you in another direction other than being a staff member and you don't share it with the pastor soon enough for fear of the pastor's disagreement with your leading or because you don't want to hurt your pastor's feelings.

The pastor forgets to do something he said he would do and you begin to get frustrated instead of communicating about it again with him.

You feel the pastor is not helping you enough in a certain area for which you are responsible and fail to communicate honestly.

You don't pray or your wife doesn't pray regularly for the pastor and his wife, and fellow staff members and their wives. Thus PRAYERIZING is not overcoming the temptation to be CRITICIZING.

You disagree with a decision of the pastor or another staff member. You cannot resolve the feeling even after much prayer and intercession, and giving it to the Lord. Instead of sharing with the pastor or staff member, you let it boil and fester.

You allow yourself to discuss the pastor's or his wife's faults with other members or staff.

You complain about the pastor or staff member to people outside the church.

Staff doesn't pray together enough nor have meetings together enough; thus not establishing loving and honest lines of communication.

You begin tithing a part or all of your tithe somewhere else other than your local church and thus your heart begins to be somewhere else where your treasure is.

You begin to have a close relationship with another minister or a new minister in the church and you find yourself shifting your line of loyalty from your pastor to the other minister.

You receive a suspicious thought or accusation from the devil about your pastor (or his wife), or another staff member (or his wife). You entertain the thought and don't resolve it in prayer or communication. "Receive not an accusation against an elder unless it be before two or three witnesses."

Someone else accuses the pastor or his wife, or another staff member or his wife TO YOU. In this case you must inform the complainer (accuser) that you will contact the pastor or whoever the accused is, in order to set up a time when the matter can be resolved. If you don't do this you are left with a "TIME BOMB" on your chest. And if people find out that you will receive such talk, you will become the "SOUNDING BOARD" for all the complainers in the church. The devil will see to it. You MUST NOT pledge confidence (secrecy) to a person that brings a complaint or more serious accusation. The devil works in the "dark".

You don't make a consistent effort to push people towards the pastor's leadership. Thus people begin to pull you from the pastor's leadership. Regular public and private voicing of your support and trust of the pastor will keep the people from getting jealous for you against the pastor and keep complainers from coming to you. Thus preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

You don't lead your wife into prayer when she expresses frustrations about church problems, people, etc. Thus your marriage and your church slowly become incompatible with one another.

The pastor or a staff member preaches or teaches about something that you disagree with. It is a minor doctrinal area and you let it become a mountain instead of a molehill. You don't pray over it and give it to the Lord.

The pastor or staff member preaches or teaches something that you feel is major. You pray over it, then later he preaches or teaches it again. You fail to come and discuss your difference calmly with the pastor.

You correct or contradict the pastor or another staff person to a church member or in public.