

## DON'T !

A couple of years ago, or thereabouts, was published a book with the above title, containing maxims for everyday life, all put in the negative form. It had a large sale, and likely enough some copies may be in the hands of some of our readers. It did not, however, touch the relations of church life and work, so we propose to supply that deficiency, and present a series of rules, which, if they are read aright and faithfully carried out, will, we are pleased to think, enable those who are thus privileged to shine as members of their respective churches or congregations.

*As to the Pastor,*

## DON'T

subscribe so liberally that if others follow your example he will be lifted above the care of worldly things, and be able to give his full attention to spiritual things. Help to keep him poor. Quote the first clause of Luke x. 4.

## DON'T

believe that he has expenses and needs that you have not; if the poor seek him, let him send them away; if he wants books, has he not one book? As for going away, let him stay at home—you do.

## DON'T

say a kind and encouraging word, even if you should be pleased with some of the sermons he preaches; it might help him, it is true, but it might make him proud, and that would be—well—awful!

## DON'T

omit to criticise the sermon at the table before your family; you can easily find fault; it will be too long or too short, too doctrinal or not doctrinal enough, light or heavy. If your pastor has any peculiarities, dwell upon them.

## DON'T

rebuke your children if in this they imitate you (of course you wouldn't); let them say of him what they please, it will make them critical and independent, even if it does destroy their spiritual life and all prospect of their being gathered into the church; you will feel that is of little consequence in comparison.

## DON'T

show him any special respect. Why should you? He is only a man, as he himself will tell you and so

are you; he is your servant for Christ's sake, but never mind the office.

## DON'T

forget to object if he is absent from his pulpit and another in his place; say that you can't think why he cannot stay at home and attend to his duties. It is no business of yours if he has gone to help a weak, struggling church, or to relieve a sick and overworked brother pastor.

## DON'T

consent to any holidays during the year; you doubt them, why can't he?

## DON'T

doubt, if he is away for a Sunday, that he has gone to preach to some other church with a view to a call, and suggest that to any of your fellow-members; it will help to make them more comfortable and settled in their fellowship.

*As to your Fellow-Members,*

## DON'T

think that they have any rights you are bound to respect; let each look after his own rights.

## DON'T

study anybody's feelings; act and speak as if no one had any feelings but yourself; be very sensitive as to your own—these two things should always go together, as they generally do.

## DON'T

show any sympathy or sociability with your fellow members; at the same time be sure to complain how cold the people of the church are. If you can pass out of church without seeing or speaking to any one, that will help you in this a good deal.

## DON'T

trouble yourself about the sick, or those in sorrow; it is your pastor's business to look after these; is he not paid to do it?

## DON'T

put up with any one having a better seat than yourself in the church. Whoever it is, old and honoured, wealthy or active, never mind what you give for the support of the cause, demand what you think is the best seat.

## DON'T

forget the singing in church; this will give you a fine opportunity for abuse and criticism; you can simply say that it is horrible, or you can hunt up