

touched upon. If the pastor occupied the position of a private Christian, it might seem arrogating too much to ask for the discharge of special duties toward him. But he is not simply a private Christian. Involved in the performance of the duties of his office are the interests of the whole church and of each of its members; and hence the duties owed to him are of the highest moment. The spiritual welfare of every member of the church is connected with his ministry. Manifestly, it is the duty of every member of the church to pray for its pastor. He needs his people's prayers in order that he may truly and faithfully interpret the Word of God and preach it impressively. He needs them that he may wisely discharge the duties of the pastoral calling, many of which are so difficult and delicate, and the issues of which will be eternal. If Christians do not pray for him, he will make mistakes and be unfaithful, and the interests committed to him will languish. If they do pray for him, the blessing of God will make his work easy and successful. He needs such prayers more than other men because his ministrations pertain to the things of the Holy Spirit, which is pre-eminently the gift bestowed in answer to prayer, and because such vast interests are involved in his work. Oh, then, let prayer for the pastor be the habit of every member—prayer most earnest.

It is the duty and the interest of every church member to defend the good name of his pastor—not only his name for integrity, but also his reputation for industry and fidelity in his office. The good name of the pastor is his power. With it, he is mighty for good; without it, he is shorn of both honor and strength. And that good name of the minister is liable to be assailed by the ungodly world so as to injure the cause through him. As a public man and a recognized leader in the cause of Christ, he is a target for the arrows of the enemy from many a quarter. Let him be ever so upright and watchful, yet these shafts of detraction will be shot at him. He will at times be condemned, even by Christians, when the motives for his actions are not seen or understood, and when, if they were, he would be praised