

ledge, every removal breaks up thier studies which are not resumed again for many months, and this loss can not be repaired. Then the unhappy feelings of disunion that in many cases are created and take possession of hearts that should be filled with love to God and to the souls of the perishing. Frequent removals cannot be beneficial to Pastors as regards their pecuniary relations; it must prevent them from making arrangements for the permanent settlement of their families, or for the education of their children. Then the great waste of time. God called them to labour for him and to watch for souls, but when they most expect to see their labours crowned with success the time of their removal comes, and three or six months pass before another settlement is effected, and that probably only for one year.

DEAR BRETHREN—In the fear of God, and in view of the account to be rendered, we make the solemn enquiry, Who is to blame in all this matter?—Blame rests somewhere; at whose door is it to be found? Are the churches to blame? We believe they are; they do not set a proper value on the toils and labours of their Pastors, or if they do, they do not let them know that they have their sympathies and prayers, or that they appreciate their services. Their irregular attendance at the house of God, or the listless manner in which they sit while he is proclaiming to them the glorious gospel, disheartens him—their real aversion to keeping up gospel discipline or at least the disposition to have it carried out without their aid; thus putting the Pastor to do the work of the church, very soon brings influences to bear upon him that renders his removal indispensable. Then there are those in many of our churches who indulge a spirit of intolerance and despotism, and this spirit is so diametrically opposed to the constitution and principles of Baptist churches, that their only hope of success is in the skilful use of flattery and deception; but a Pastor that has become acquainted with them and their design, can not be influenced by them, therefore a speedy removal must be effected, for the accomplishment of which they labour most assiduously, withholding from him all aid and co-operation while they gather around a stranger, though he preaches the same gospel as their pastor, and by fair speeches and a show of piety deceive him and if possible get him to exert an influence against their Pastor, and after a time the Pastor leaves his field discouraged, not knowing whither to direct his steps. Others are forced to resign their charge on account of the irregular manner in which they receive their salaries, want of punctuality and promptitude on the part of churches at once involve the Pastors in difficulty, as the promised salaries are their only means of support; but if they at all complain they are disposed to let them go, and get others that will not require so much salary. Another cause of the frequent removal of Pastors is the want of suitable dwellings for them.—churches instead of providing comfortable houses for their Pastors leave them to provide for themselves, with salaries that render it impossible for them to procure respectable situations. Therefore they are often found occupying the meanest looking and most dilapidated buildings in the community, and in such circumstances they find their influence weakened and are thereby prompted to seek another field where they may be more useful. In some instances the hurried manner in which the sacred connection is formed, is a cause of speedy dissolution. Churches engage Pastors without knowing anything of their qualifications or ability to discharge the duties of the pastorate, and after a time they find themselves disappointed, and now a removal must be effected. But the churches should not bear all the blame. There is a restless spirit in some ministers that is the cause of their often removing from place to place. When called to endure hardness, they try to escape it by removing to another church. A sense of inadequacy to the duties required of them causes them to seek fields more easily cultivated, instead of inducing them to use every means within their power to become efficient in every department of pastoral labour. Unwarrantable desires for the largest salaries may have been the cause of the removal of Pastors in some instances, and perhaps other reasons might be given with which we are not acquainted.

DEAR BRETHREN—Let us as Ministers and Churches put forth a united effort for the removal of all wrongs from among us, and let us by prayer and fasting before God seek to have each heart rightly influenced, and then we will be prepared to labour for the good of others, and may God hasten the time when all sin shall be put away from among us, and when we shall stand before him without spot and blameless.

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