



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK  
THE EFFECTIVE PASTOR SERIES

# The Effective Pastor

## Part 1: Pastoral Effectiveness

Featuring

**Kevin Mannoia**

*Chaplain to faculty and staff, Azusa Pacific University*  
*Coauthor, 15 Characteristics of Effective Pastors*

**Larry Walkemeyer**

*Pastor, Light & Life Christian Fellowship*  
*Coauthor, 15 Characteristics of Effective Pastors*

Host

**H.B. London**

*Vice President of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries*  
*for Focus on the Family*  
*Coauthor, The Heart of a Great Pastor*

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## **I. Introduction**

This program can help pastors hold a mirror to themselves

## **II. Effectiveness in pastoral leadership**

Pastors are interested in effectiveness—to correct and/or improve their ministry

Delphi Panel: nine panelists reaching consensus on effective pastoring

## **III. What are the characteristics of effectiveness?**

Effectiveness  $\neq$  success

A balance between godliness and competence

Godliness:

- Self-awareness
- Character
- Inner formation of the being

Competence:

- Positional awareness: you see the impact you have
- Activities and skills in ministry: preaching, counseling, administration, etc.
- Deployment: where you live out your call
- Stewardship: being effectively deployed for maximum impact

## **IV. Goals of this series**

Giving pastors handholds in climbing to greater effectiveness

Take-aways for pastors

- Pursue patterns of living that develop healthy characteristics [1435]
- Not confuse ineffective habits with basic needs of effective pastoring
- Marshal energy to improve your own growth and development
- Release time-consuming things of secondary importance
- Find greater balance in ministry

## Take-aways for lay leaders

- Understand pastoral call more fully
- Partner better with pastoral leaders
- Place proper expectations on the pastor
- Assess the health and effectiveness of your church

*But grow in the  
grace and  
knowledge of our  
Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ.  
—2 Peter 3:18*

**V. Characteristic 1: Grace and growth**

*I am the vine...  
—John 15*

Effective pastors possess a lively experience of God's grace and growth in their walk

*But by the grace of  
God I am what I  
am...*

There is a distinction between our Christian walk and our Christian work

*—1 Corinthians  
15:10a*

Our work flows from our walk, but not the reverse: John 15

The grace of **credibility**:

Pastors gain credibility from fresh reception of grace

Pastors remain awed by amazing grace

The grace of **cleansing**

Effective pastors deal honestly with their sin through personal application of grace

The power of the Cross is their personal hope and powerful message

The grace of **renewal**

Effective pastors deal with hurts, disappointments by receiving grace

Grace received can become grace administered to critics

The grace of **provision**

Effective pastors depend increasingly on God Himself

*God opposes the  
proud, but gives  
grace to the humble.  
—Proverbs 3:34,  
quoted in James 4:6,  
1 Peter 5:5*

Key question: Am I doing something *for* God or something *with* God?

## The grace of **growth**

Effective pastors have healthy discontent with status quo in ministry

They pursue continuous growth and lifelong learning

Grace-filled pastors handle challenges differently

Not escaping pain, nor managing/controlling situation, but embracing it

Effective ministry isn't a destination, but a way of traveling

Pastors who feel they've "arrived" have lost their grace-dependency

God's presence brings life to effective pastors, who bring it to their ministry [3100]

*For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective or unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
—2 Peter 1-8*

## VI. Characteristic 2: Deep personal love for God

This characteristic is the real reason one chooses the vocation

With any other motive, the efforts and successes of ministry are tainted

Other loves (ministry, platform, position, preaching) begin to seduce

Their passion for the work derives from their passion for the Lord

People sense whether ministry flows from self-love or God-love

This well-developed love is based on growing understanding of God through truth, experiences, commitments

A recognition that God is looking for us, not we for him [3620]

*Do you think Scripture means nothing that says the spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone?  
—James 4:5*

*But I have this against you: You have left the love you had in the beginning.  
—Revelations 2:4*

The pastor who lives in this love with God experiences

- Increased security
- Increased willingness to take risks
- Deliverance from being unduly swayed by popular opinion [3930]
- Well-formed identity that distinguishes between performance and personhood [4100]

## **VII. Discussion with H.B. London**

## Resources

***15 Characteristics of Effective Pastors:  
How to Strengthen Your Inner Core  
and Ministry Impact***

by Kevin Mannoia & Larry Walkemeyer  
www.amazon.com

***The Heart of a Great Pastor: How to  
Grow and Thrive Wherever God Has  
Planted You***, revised

by H.B. London, Jr. & Neil B. Wiseman  
www.parsonage.org

**“The Parsonage”**

www.parsonage.org

***The Shepherd’s Covenant for Pastors:  
How G-R-A-C-E Can Transform Your  
Life***

by H.B. London, Jr. and Neil B.  
Wiseman  
www.parsonage.org

Pastor to Pastor CDs and articles  
www.parsonage.org

Focus on the Family Confidential  
Pastoral Care Line

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mountain time

Phone: 877-233-4455

## Contact Information

**Kevin Mannoia**

**Azusa Pacific University**

PO Box 7000

Azusa, CA 91702

**Phone:** 626-815-6000

**Email:** kmannoia@apu.edu

**H.B. London**

Focus on the Family

**Web:** www.parsonage.org

**Larry Walkemeyer**

**Light & Life Christian Fellowship**

5951 Downey Av.

Long Beach, CA 90805

**Phone:** 562-630-6074

**Email:** Larryw@llcf.org

**Web:** www.llcf.org

**Church Communication Network**

PO Box 1718

Mt. View, CA 94042

**Phone:** 800-321-6781

**Fax:** 650-745-0660

**Email:** ccninfo@ccnonline.net

**Web:** www.ccn.tv