



In *On Pastoring*, veteran pastor H. B. Charles gives 40 quick chapters on the practical aspects of pastoral ministry. Covering the devotional life, spiritual leadership, and public ministry of the pastor, he provides advice on topics from guarding your heart to conducting funerals and weddings.

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thing on her. Your calling is not her calling, and she may not have as thick of skin for the ministry as you do. Avoid overwhelming her with behind-the-scenes details that may embitter her toward the church.

Develop strong relationships with wise and godly men who will stand with you through the changing seasons of life. This kind of fellowship, counsel, and accountability should transcend ministry issues. What's going on in your congregation is definitely important. But the things happening in your life—before God, in your devotional life, with your family—are far more important. We need people in our lives to ask us tough questions about our personal lives, like:

- Are you having a daily quiet time with the Lord?
- How is your prayer life?
- Are you being faithful to your wife?
- Are you making time for your children?
- Are you practicing sexual purity?
- Are you handling your finances properly?
- Do you need to seek reconciliation with anyone?
- Are you keeping any secrets that can ruin your family or ministry down the road?

Then, when you have answered these questions, your friends should ask one more: “Did you lie in any of your answers just now?” You need total accountability.

When pastors who have fallen into disqualifying sins are probed about why they went astray, the top answers are usually the same. Many pastors who fall into sin did not think it would ever happen to them. This is the seductive nature of temptation. Our





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