

2 Corinthians

12:19-21

Defining success

What questions should a church ask of a pastoral candidate?

- ✓ What are five books that have influenced your life and in what way?
- ✓ What are three lessons you learned from your family that shaped who you are today?
- ✓ Where have you experienced personal failure or disappointment in life and how have you responded?
- ✓ What would your friends say are three examples of how God has impacted the lives of others through you?

Three more questions

1. What determines your **significance**?

*God's
anointing*

*Worldly
accomplishments*

“¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

2. What motivates your **Christian service**?

*The selfless service of
the church*

*The selfish service
of your needs*

“¹⁵ And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?”

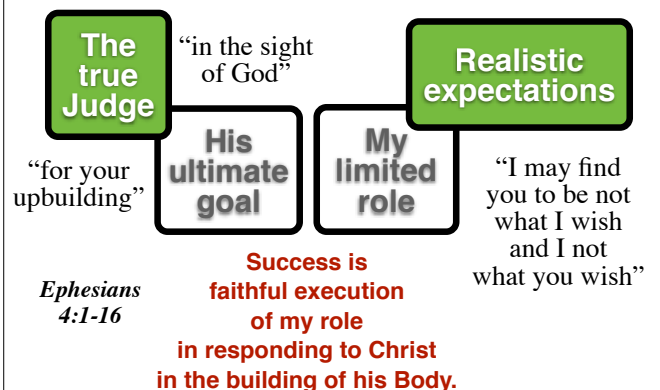
3. How do you define **success**?

“¹⁹ All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you. Actually, *it is in the sight of God* that we have been speaking in Christ; and *all for your upbuilding, beloved.*” ²⁰ For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances; ²¹ I am afraid that when I come again *my God may humiliate me before you*, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.”

Observations

1. God, not man is the ultimate judge of ministry success.
2. Christian service is to be edifying to those served not to the one serving.
3. Unrealistic expectations of each other will bring relational conflicts.
4. Servants who are not accepted will have a hard time edifying others.

What is success for a Christian?



Ephesians 4

“1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called**, . . . 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to **the building up of the body of Christ**; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. . . . 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to **the proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Success is not:

- Realizing **YOUR** dreams.
- Being **ALL** you can be.
- **EVANGELIZING** the world.
- **BUILDING** a big ministry.
- Wining the **PRAISE** of others.
- The **SAME** for every believer.

Paul's two callings

A Disciple



a student

**receiving
(being built)**

An Apostle



a teacher

**giving
(building others)**

Pastoral advice

Attend to the right judge.

1. **Resist the critique of the world.**
2. **Respond as disciple and servant.**
3. **Rest in the grace of the Gospel.**

Develop realistic expectations.

4. **Realize the ultimate goal.**
5. **Recognize the diversity of gifts.**
6. **Respect the limitations of your role.**