



“A Call to Godly Pastoral Leadership”

Malachi 2:1-9

Sunday 1/10/2010

➔ **Introduction...** When comfort and security are in place, lethargy and leniency sneak in. God sent Malachi after the leaders – the spiritual shepherds of the people, the root of the problem. Where the leaders go, so go the people. Nothing could be more true for the church of today.

➔ **Open it...**

1. If you could eliminate one kind of animal from the earth, which animal would you choose? Why?
2. What three adjectives could best describe your past week? What triggered good feelings? Bad?

➔ **Explore it... Read Malachi 2:1-9**

1. The priests and our leaders are called to honor God’s name. List some ways that we can honor God’s name. List some ways that we dishonor His name.
2. Read Num 18:7-24. How does this covenant with the priests relate to the working of Christ’s Church today? What is our responsibility in this?
3. Pastor Steve said that to honor is to acknowledge greatness/goodness and to revere is to be in awe and to fear. He said that honoring God’s name cannot be done without reverence. Can you describe how someone could think he or she was honoring God’s name yet are doing it without reverence?
4. When you come to church, what do you expect to get from the preaching? What are the qualities of a good sermon?
5. According to Mal 2:6-7, 2 Cor 4:1-6 and 2 Peter 1:12-15, what are some things that should be included in good teaching?

6. What do you think are the qualities of a good preacher/teacher? What is it about the person that helps you learn? What are two qualities found in Mal 2:6?

7. When a pastor or leader “falls from grace” what are the results? See Mal 2:9, 2 Peter 2:1-3.

8. If you have been under the teaching of one of these “pastors,” or do not want to be under one, how can you prevent it?

9. Mal 2:6 says that the priest should turn many from sin. How does this make it hard for our pastors and leaders, who are human and fallible, to preach against sin?

10. What happens to a church where the leaders turn from the way? See Mal 2:8.

➔ **Apply it...**As you think back on this passage – answer these questions personally with I, me and my...

1. Most of us acknowledge God’s goodness and mercy. Do you show honor and reverence in your daily speech? How can you show reverence to God, at home, at work, etc.?

2. When you give your offering to the church, how do you feel about a portion of that money being spent to pay the pastors and staff? Does your attitude honor God?

3. Do you need to re-evaluate the way you listen to sermons/teaching? Do you want to be reminded of the basics or only want to hear something new? Do you have the basics down well enough that they have become second nature? Do you want to be entertained?

➔ **Pray it...**

Pray for your pastors and leaders. Pray that they would:

- Honor God’s name (vs. 1-2)
- Serve God with reverence (vs. 5)
- Teach God’s Word (vs. 6-7)
- Have peace and uprightness as their strength (vs. 6)
- Turn people away from sin (vs. 6)
- Guard the Truth (vs. 7a)
- Do not cause people to stumble (vs. 8)
- Do not show favoritism (vs. 9)