

Shocking Stats

A recent denominational survey resulted in the following findings about preachers:

Fifteen hundred “pastors” leave the ministry each month due to moral failure, spiritual burnout, or contention in their churches.

Fifty percent of “pastors’” marriages will end in divorce.

Eighty percent of “pastors” and eighty-four percent of thier spouses feel unqualified and discouraged in their role as “pastors.”

Fifty percent of “pastors” are so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living.

Eighty percent of seminary and Bible school graduates who enter the ministry will leave the ministry within the first five years.

Seventy percent of “pastors” constanly fight depression.

Almost forty percent polled said they have had an extra-marital affair since beginning their ministry.

Seventy percent said the only time they spend studying the Word is when they are preparing their sermons.

I got depressed just reading the survey. I’m beginning to wonder about my own approach to ministry since I’m not discouraged in it, never had an illicit affair, enjoy studying the Word, and have remained in the work for more than thirty five years. Sure, there have been times when I was discouraged and thought about quitting, but these were few and far between. I’ve had to make adjustments now and then to keep focused... changing my schedule, beginning exercise routines, taking time off once in awhile... but fortunately the Lord has blessed me with good vision as to my purpose. Yet, the survey does remind us of the constant need to properly train preachers, preparing them for the ups and downs of ministry. One of the things I emphasize in my training is... preaching ain’t for sissys!

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