

The Unique Role of the Senior Pastor

Episode 457

The job of the senior pastor is enormous.

Prepare and deliver sermons. Ensure the spiritual health of the church. Model biblical priorities. And, roughly, 400 other items.

Whether it's in the written job description or not, *senior pastors have too much to do*. And when everything is on your plate, everything feels equally urgent.

But there's a handful of things that **only** the lead pastor can do. And the gap between that and everything else on the to-do list is where lead pastors get stuck.

In this episode, Sean and Jimmy break down the **unique role of the senior pastor**—what only they can do and how to delegate everything else.

Key Quotes

- “The last-minute meeting tends to kind of scream at you, but the long-term direction of your church just whispers in the background.”
- “The people around you are going to unconsciously train you to be available for the wrong things if you let them.”
- “Everybody respects message prep in theory, but almost nobody protects it in practice.”
- “Casting vision effectively is the hundreds of small moments during the week where you're reinforcing where you're going.”
- “Whatever you don't like about your church's culture is probably a reflection of how you operate.”
- “The fastest route to burnout is expending energy on things that move you sideways.”
- “There's a version of this job that's genuinely life-giving; it starts when you stop playing everybody else's position and you make the main thing the main thing.”

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

Review our ebook [Four Roles a Senior Pastor Can't Delegate](#) before answering the questions below.

1. While you consider what you can delegate to others, ask yourself, “Does this fall under one of the four things that only I can do as a lead pastor? Or am I just the one who's always done it?”
2. After spending a week tracking how much time you spend on the areas only you can do vs. everything else, what do you need to change going forward?

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