

Dont' Trip Yourself

“And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.” (Matthew 13:57)

Let me be clear about what happened here. These people offended themselves!

The people of Nazareth, being so close to Jesus in a natural sense for over thirty years, did not look past their natural understanding of who Jesus was to see the Divine blessing that was upon Him. Because they *would* not get past the fact that they had watched Jesus grow up, they *could* not see Him for Who He truly is, the Son of God.

Very often this is the case in the local assembly as well. A young man feels that the Lord has led Him to preach the gospel and he obediently follows that call. And yet he finds that the congregation, that includes many of his family members and life-long friends, sees him just as the boy they knew growing up who happens to say some pretty good things from the Bible.

Because of natural views and understandings, many church members miss the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the friend or brother they hear preach. They do not look beyond the physical person to see the supernatural message that God has sent to them through the man!

This can become quite dangerous because God has designed that His children should learn to be disciples in the local assembly of the church.¹ Further, we can see from each of the letters written to the seven churches of Asia in Revelation that the message was delivered to the angel, or pastor, who was to deliver it to the church. The role of Elder/Pastor in the church is a vital to church growth and maturity.

If we refuse look past the natural relationship we have with our Elders, we will miss the messages that God has given them to preach to us!

However, this does not have to be the case. It is possible to know a man from his youth and still follow him as a minister of the gospel. In fact, I not only believe it is possible but it is actually how God designed it to be. Consider Paul's instructions to Titus.

“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:” (Titus 1:5)

Paul did not tell the church to go to the state university, theological school, or mission board to find themselves a pastor. Paul instructed Titus to ordain men who grew up in the that area to lead and teach congregations consisting of their family members and life-long friends.

¹ 1st Timothy 3:15