



## The Coach's Corner--June/July 2022

One of the biggest challenges of pastoral ministry today is how to initiate change in a congregation. There are **five simple questions** that a pastor needs to ponder before introducing change in a congregation.

**1. On a scale of 1-10 how much do you love these people?**

People who know that you love and respect them will respect you back and will be open to being led. Keep first things first.

**2. What's the culture of the congregation in relation to change?**

Every congregation differs sociologically, educationally, historically, and economically. Who can help me understand the interplay of these factors in this congregation?

**3. What's the history of the congregational members when it comes to their relationship with their pastors?**

Ask around. Following good relationships is always easier than following difficult ones because of transference. You get the benefit of the doubt from the very beginning. The opposite is also true. Building relationships from the bottom is a slow process.

**4. How will you work through the congregational structure to shepherd the people towards change?**

Maintaining the pastoral authority of the Word while respecting the priesthood of all believers is balancing act. The good shepherd divides up the issues in his mind and does both.

**5. How do you deal with criticism?**

We are called to be bold with the Word, but we also have to be realistic about ourselves and our spouse. We will win some changes and lose other changes. Only the Word is important.

Simple, thoughtful questions lead to better options.... that's coaching.

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