

Clergy's Challenge To Discover Identity

by REV. R.C. LOHINES

Maple Avenue Baptist Church
 What do you think of your preacher? I am assuming you have one a preacher, a priest, a minister. It really doesn't matter what you call him. Maybe you do not even go to church very often, but there is someone you consider your preacher.

If you had trouble, you would probably go to him. Or perhaps there is a minister whom you know vaguely, but you have definite opinions about him, and you tend to think of all clergymen in terms of that preacher. Regardless of the background and whatever the case may be, what do you think of your preacher?

If you are like most people today, chances are you don't have a very high opinion of preachers in general and perhaps not even of your own preacher. A recent article I read made this frightening statement "During the twentieth century the image of the clergyman has changed. Once seen as a crusader, he now has become a doubter. Once a comforter, he is now an accommodator."

Because of the pressures brought to bear on the preachers many of them often feel frustrated and unsure of themselves. They experience a distressing conflict of roles: they do not know sometimes whether they are to be a civil rights worker, a psychologist, a master of ceremonies, an entertainer, or what.

The challenge that faces the clergy is to re-discover what it is, and who it is that gave us our commission. There are multitudes of good people who desire from their preacher the clear, authoritative proclamation of the gospel of saving grace.

A preacher is first and foremost a minister of Christ. This means that preachers are responsible to Jesus and they are required to please Him. That is why, when you are choosing a minister, you should discover whom the man is trying to please. Is he trying to please you, is he trying to please his congregation, is he trying to please his boards?

If he is, then he will be a long way from helping you. He is not to deliver a pleasant sounding speech, but rather deliver a clear proclamation of the message of God's revelation to a sin sick world and to a people, who I believe will respond when they hear.

Do not be satisfied with hearing less than what the Holy Bible has to say about Sin and Salvation. I believe as preachers we are guilty for allowing ourselves to drift from our calling and have given good cause to our people to think as they do about their preachers.

This does not entirely absolve the individual, however, of some of the responsibilities of making it difficult for their minister to minister. In many churches today it seems that the pastor just cannot do anything right. The following is no doubt greatly exaggerated-but remember a great deal of truth is often contained in this kind of pun.

If the pastor is young, they say he lacks experience;
 If his hair is gray, he's too old for the young people;
 If he has five or six children, he has too many;

COUPLE WED DOWN UNDER

The wedding of Rebecca Lewis Conlee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Van Wyck Conlee, Schuylerville, New York, and David Paul Howard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Howard, 17 Gower St., Georgetown, took place recently in Darwin, Australia.

The bride is a graduate of Bates College and the College of St. Rose. The groom attended Georgetown District High School and is a graduate of York University, Toronto.

He is associated with the ceramics research unit of the Bagnot Aboriginal Reserve sponsored by the University of New South Wales in Darwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard are living in Darwin and plan to return to Canada in 1974.



STREET-WIDENING CASUALTY

(Herald Photo)

A sad casualty of a road widening project on Guelph Street lies in front of Frank Black's house, Ontario.

Hydro cut the trees to move hydro poles back. Residents of the area, and the town in general, were heartened by the news that the number of trees to be cut was reduced from 13 to four. Some of the other trees will be trimmed to make room for the hydro lines, rather than cut as originally proposed.

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REV. PETER BARROW B.D.

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