

10 Factors in Pulpit Pollution

I was recently with a friend (whom I will leave nameless) who said the reason his city is in a mess is that “the pulpits are polluted!” I immediately began to think and pray about the implications and reasons for such a strong statement. Upon reflection, I found his statement to be true based on conversations I have had with numerous leaders across the globe.

The following are 10 reasons we are experiencing pollution in some pulpits today:

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1. The pastor has an unholy union with politicians. In Scripture, we have numerous examples of how religious leaders compromised their faith and obedience to God for the sake of political advantage and access. In Amos 7:12-13, Amaziah, the priest, commanded the prophet Amos to stop prophesying at Bethel because it was the king’s sanctuary and a temple of the kingdom. In 1 Kings 22, we see how all the prophets except Micaiah only prophesied what King Ahab wanted to hear. Also, all the chief priests conspired to put Jesus to death when they said they had no king but Caesar, thereby aligning themselves with the Roman emperor over the Lord of the universe (John 19:15).

I have observed many religious leaders compromise their faith by supporting political candidates and platforms to gain access to power and money. This, almost more than any other factor, is the reason for schisms, posturing and a lack of true spiritual power in the pulpit today.

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2. The pastor puts the branding of their name before the health of their local church. Some spiritual leaders merely use their church as a platform to enhance their own name. They put all their effort into elevating their name without care or concern for the congregation's health. When a spiritual leader is more concerned with their own brand than the spiritual condition of their church, it pollutes the pulpit.

3. The pastor is not relationally accountable to anyone. Whenever a spiritual leader has no true accountability, they are more vulnerable to temptation. A leader with no oversight is a lone ranger and can easily go off track. This is another reason for pollution in the pulpit today.

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