



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



Pastoring or Pestering

Caring can be called Pastoring in a pastoral language, and there is another similar word: Pestering, which means "bothering." However, they both have similar pronunciations: Pestoring vs. Pestering. These two are about the question, "Am I taking care of the person!" or "Bothering and annoying!" These two English words are similar, but they have completely different meanings.

We talk a lot about caring in church. In the Bible, there is also a saying, "Take care of my sheep." However, there are cases where you bother someone while saying that you take care of them. For example, some people ask too much about the person's private life, saying, "The better you know the other person, the better you can take care of him." "When did you get married,?" "How many children do you have?" "Why are you married so late?, why are you so early?" It seems to give the impression of tired and tormenting the other person. This is Pestering. It's like interrogating a criminal at a police station. This is not caring, but bothering, and further damaging.

For example, a small group said, "we will pray," and asked them to sit around the new believer and present the title of their prayer. That's why the young mother opened various private lives under the title of prayer. They prayed together and finished well. But the next Sunday, her private things spread throughout the church. Someone had said this everywhere. This was not caring, it was hurting.

This issue is one of the training sessions that is highly emphasized at the Lay Pastors Ministry as well. Reliability is confidence, and what you have heard from others is that do not disclose private life to third parties. What is already known publicly is that it is okay to tell others, but do not open extremely private conversations. Don't even talk about it between a couple. It is like a

sealed private letter. For example, when you get a job at a company, if there are any traces of opening in a document bag containing the grades sent from school, can the company trust the contents of the envelop?

What you have heard privately means to deal with it that carefully, so keep it to yourself. Even if you write it down somewhere, you won't be able to tell it. If there is something you really want to say, go to the seashore and use it on the sandy beach near the water. When the water comes in, it'll be washed away soon!

It's so good to think that you are helping and taking care of others, but if you think and act too much only from my point of view, it can be annoying, harassing, and damaging. These days, I often use group chat in KakaoTalk, but I have participated in a group chat of my elementary school classmates in Korea, and since Korea and Kenya have different time differences, sending a text message at 9 a.m. in Korea was not uncomfortable because it was 3 a.m. in Kenya. In the end, I said I was sorry and left. After three or four such experiences, I started to think very carefully about joining a group chat room. After experiencing this a few times, I am very careful because I realize that continuously sending a text message to anyone will eventually bother that person.

In addition to this, in many cases, we put pestering ahead with the idea of [care], but in fact, there are too many, and often cases of bothering. We are very grateful for care, but I think we should think carefully about whether it is bothering them or not.