

Protecting Yourself With Your Ministry Umbrella

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Ministry is dangerous! You are interacting with people who may or may not have your best interest in mind! You are also dealing with your own passion for the Lord that can cause you to put yourself at risk. If you are young and single, this may all be okay. If you are older, married, and have a family; the danger from ministry can be catastrophic! Staying under your “ministry umbrella” will protect you!

The “dangerous elements” are:

- Criticisms from others
- Unrealistic expectations
- Risky ministry ventures

Staying Under Your Umbrella

1. Understand your calling from God.
 - a. Its specific focus
 - b. Its connection to the Great Commission
 - c. Its limitations
2. Talk often with your supervising pastor.
 - a. About your life
 - b. About your perceptions
 - c. About your dreams / ideas
 - d. About your challenges
 - e. About your fears
 - f. About those who criticize you
3. Memorize and protect your ministry vision.
 - a. Understand its “scope”
 - b. Understand its limits
 - c. Let it guide you
 - d. Let it protect you from involvement in non-vision efforts
4. Establish, and maintain, ministry policies.
 - a. Let them guide you
 - b. Refer to them personally, to your team, and to others
 - c. Never break them
5. Discuss everything with your respected friends or spouse.
 - a. Share your dreams
 - b. Share your fears
 - c. Share your challenges
 - d. Ask for advice
 - e. Listen to, and follow, their advice

Your ministry “umbrella” is:

- Your calling
- A supervising pastor
- A ministry vision
- A ministry policy
- A respected friend or spouse

Protective Statements

- *I’m sorry, I really can’t do that because...*
- *That’s a great idea, but it doesn’t match our vision.*
- *I wish I could, but my commitment to my family won’t permit it.*
- *We really don’t have the people to do that.*