



Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition

By John Piper

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In this revised and expanded edition of *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* that includes a new introduction and select all-new chapters, best-selling author John Piper pleads through a series of thoughtful essays with fellow pastors to abandon the professionalization of the pastorate and pursue the prophetic call of the Bible for radical ministry.

“We pastors are being killed by the professionalizing of the pastoral ministry,” he writes. “The mentality of the professional is not the mentality of the prophet. It is not the mentality of the slave of Christ. Professionalism has nothing to do with the essence and heart of the Christian ministry. The more professional we long to be, the more spiritual death we will leave in our wake. For there is no professional childlikeness, there is no professional tenderheartedness, there is no professional panting after God.

“Brothers, we are not professionals. We are outcasts. We are aliens and exiles in the world. Our citizenship is in Heaven, and we wait with eager expectation for the Lord (Phil. 3:20). You cannot professionalize the love for His appearing without killing it. And it is being killed.

“The world sets the agenda of the professional man; God sets the agenda of the spiritual man. The strong wine of Jesus Christ explodes the wine- skins of professionalism.”

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Editorial Review

Review

“It was the kindness of God which led me to stumble across this book in my first year of pastoral ministry. I remember vividly kneeling at my bedside in tears, feeling so rebuked and so encouraged at the same time. I loved this book then and, with several new chapters, I love it even more now. I hope every pastor reads this book and listens to its sane, practical, biblical advice.”

Kevin DeYoung

Senior Pastor, University Reformed Church
East Lansing, Michigan
Author of *The Hole in Our Holiness*

John Piper makes me uncomfortable. And I thank God for that. He makes me uneasy with the worldliness that so easily creeps into my heart in my thinking about ministry. He highlights temptations to compromise – temptations that I know personally. He warns me of hidden traps. He urges me against allowing the calling of God to be domesticated by the outlook of this passing age, or by my desire to be esteemed by it. But he also reminds me of issues where my people need to be challenged and encouraged. I read *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* when it first came out a decade ago, and have returned to portions of it repeatedly, for examination, encouragement and exhortation. I am delighted now to commend this new edition, with additional chapters addressing important topics. This book is ultimately not only convicting, but comforting, and not only exhortational but devotional. This is a faithful prophet’s call to the sons of the prophets. May the Lord grant, by the power of his grace, that we would be able to join John in his prayer: “Thank You for protecting me for all these years from the deadening effects of professionalization.”

Ligon Duncan

Senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church
Jackson, MS

“John Piper is a pastor to pastors. His love for them and his desire to see them faithfully fulfill their calling leaps from each chapter of this book. It will challenge you. It will instruct you. And most of all, it will encourage you as you shepherd God’s flock which He has entrusted to your care.”

Daniel L. Akin

“Once again, Dr. Piper has provided a generation of pastors with a clear and profound statement on our

calling, and his legacy of biblical faithfulness and commitment to God's glory is felt in every chapter."

Matt Carter

This book has been a staple for our pastors-in-training for many years--one of the few books I consider to be an absolute must read for those wanting to pursue God's work in God's way. God used the first edition of this book to profoundly shape my ministry philosophy, and I am honored to be able to recommend this 2nd edition of *Brothers We are Not Professionals*. I cannot commend it highly enough. Read it. Re-read it. And then teach it to others.

JD Greear

Lead Pastor, the Summit Church

Author of *Gospel* and *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart*

Twitter: @jdgreear @summitrdu

This is not a book for those who want a simple and easy life, it's a book for servants whom God has raised up to get down on the ground and selflessly serve by leading God's people, proclaiming God's truth, and earnestly contending for the faith. May the Holy Spirit use this book to help ignite the next generation with a passion to deny themselves and take up their crosses to serve Christ and his sheep from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Burk Parsons

Co-pastor of Saint Andrew's Chapel

Editor of *Tabletalk* magazine

From the Back Cover

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J.D. Greear

Lead Pastor, the Summit Church

About the Author

John Piper is pastor for preaching and vision at Bethlehem Baptist Church in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. He is the best-selling author of more than 40 books including *Don't Waste Your Life* and *Desiring God*.

Users Review**From reader reviews:****Melinda Miller:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

Jeff Cunningham:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write with their book. One of them is this *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition*.

Scott Duran:

Reading can be called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition your thoughts will drift away through every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Dawn Nelson:

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