

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*, 1656. Reprint. Edinburgh, England: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1989.

This book was originally meant as a series of lecture to other pastors in England. It is extremely convicting for all pastors because he continually confronts the easiness of preaching against sin while living in the same sin. The result of this, he says, is to cut the throat of your sermon. Much of the book is concerned with being a shepherd with integrity who takes great pains to shepherd and teach the flock. Baxter had a great passion for unity among the universal church and exhorts pastors to model Christ's love toward other churches, even though there may be theological differences. The last section of the book is about catechizing your congregation. The point for us today, whether we use the catechism or not, is to be "laboring day and night from house to house." This was my third time reading this book and each time I read it, new things stick out to me for my instruction and application. Reading the Puritans is often challenging and laborious, but worth it!

Level: Semi-technical/Slower Read

Theological Stance: Church of England; Puritan

Rating: 6

Recommend? Yes