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## 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:****Roberta Bourland:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for us. The book *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition* was making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The publication *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition* is not only giving you much more new information but also to become your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship using the book *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition*. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

**Jeffrey Drake:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Florinda Redfern:**

This *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition* are usually reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The main reason of this *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition* can be among the great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you with information that might be will shock your before knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry, Updated and Expanded Edition* forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that could it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

**Shelly Reder:**

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