

## VIII. The Funeral Service

### A. Pastor

The Pastor shouldn't ask the bereaved if they want him to conduct the Funeral Service. However, the Pastor should offer his help to them; and if they ask him to conduct the Funeral Service, he should do it.

### B. Viewing

The Pastor should be present at the viewing to comfort the bereaved. His presence will mean a lot to them.

### C. Order of Service

1. The Funeral Director indicates to the Pastor when to begin the service.
2. The Pastor takes his place in front of the people.
3. The Pastor says the following words:

"Where and to whom can we turn, dear friends, in the hour of sorrow and bereavement but to the Lord and to His Word. He, and He alone, speaks with authority and finality concerning what happens after death. Therefore, let us hear what He has to say to us in His Word."

4. The Pastor reads an appropriate passage of Scripture.

A good passage of Scripture to use is 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-57 (the word "But" in verse 20 should be omitted). Other passages of Scripture which may be used are John 14:1-6, 15-20, 25-27; 2 Cor. 4:15, 5:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; and Rev. 21:1-4, 9-14, 18, 19a, 21-22:5.

5. The Pastor concludes the reading of the Scripture with the following words:

"And thus we comfort and instruct ourselves in the home-going of our loved one whose trust was in Him who is the Resurrection and the Life."

NOTE: These words should be omitted if the deceased was unsaved.

6. The Pastor prays.
7. The Pastor delivers a brief message.

This message should be approximately 15 to 20 minutes in length.

8. The Pastor closes the message with prayer.