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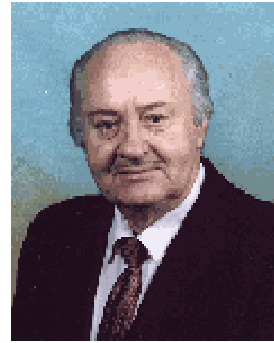
The board member eyed them all keenly before he answered. "It's signed, 'The Apostle Paul'"

Written June 22, 1993
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This Tract written
IN HONOR OF
DAVID G. AND CATHY DAMON
Felicity, Ohio

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Who is Qualified?



One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister. A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He had watched the Pastoral Relations Committee reject applicant after applicant for some fault, alleged or otherwise. It seemed that every application presented had something wrong with the preacher. It was time for a bit of soul-searching on the part of the committee.

The member who was depressed with all the coming and going of the preachers, knowing that the church needed a pastor, decided to present the last application. He stood up and read a letter purporting to be from another applicant. As the church committee listened intently, he spoke loud and clear

"Gentlemen: understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I have been a preacher with much success and some success as a writer. Some say I am a good organizer. I have been a leader most places I have been. I am over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place more than three years. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and

disturbances. I must admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a great deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

The board member looked to the committee and asked, "Well do you think? Shall we call him?"

The good church folks were astonished at such an application. One replied, "You say, 'Should we call him?' Are you crazy? Who would call an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Who signed the application? Who had such nerve?"