

Basswood Membership Material 2012

What We Do: We Practice Biblical Leadership

Elder Leadership Defined

"God entrusts the oversight of His church to a plurality of called, examined, qualified, accountable men who are duty-bound to provide care, direction-setting, and decision-making for the Body."

A pivotal question is: According to the Bible, whom will God hold accountable for the leadership of the church?

Things that confuse the issue:

- We live in the United States in the 21st Century.
- We often idolize and criminalize leaders.
- Many churches confuse the work of Deacons and Elders
- Many often defer to traditions without a careful look at the Bible.

Biblical Rationale

Jesus Christ is the _____.

- John 10:11; 1 Peter 5:4; Titus 1:7
- All authority is derivative authority.

_____ and _____.

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 2:11-12
- "The overriding concern of the New Testament in relation to church leadership is **for the right kind of men** to serve as elders and deacons." –Alexander Strauch

_____ is Expected

- Acts 11:30; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23; 16:4; Acts 20:17, 28; Acts 21:18; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:5; Jas 5:14; 1 Pet 5:1-2
- A Godly plurality guards the church.

Elders serve the church in _____-filled and _____-guided leadership.

- Biblical church leadership is not accomplished through secret hallway conversations, being the most persistent complainer, or popularity contests.
- Acts 6:1-4 "...give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."
- Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3
- "Elders **lead the church** [1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-2], **teach and preach the Word** [1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9], **protect the church from false teachers** [Acts 20:17, 28-31], **exhort and admonish the**

saints in sound doctrine [1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:13-17; Titus 1:9], **visit the sick and pray** [James 5:14; Acts 20:35], **and judge doctrinal issues** [Acts 15:16]. In biblical terminology, elders shepherd, oversee, lead, and care for the local church" –Alexander Strauch

Scripture calls us to _____ to our elders.

- Though difficult and unpopular, submission is a gift of protection.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work."
- Hebrews 13:7 "Remember your leaders (*lit. those who rule over you*)..."
- Hebrews 13:17 "Obey your leaders (*lit. those who rule over you*) and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."
- Hebrews 13:24 "Greet all your leaders (*lit. those who rule over you*)..."
- 1 Peter 5:1-3 "shepherd the flock...exercising oversight"

Clarifications

What this does not mean

What this does mean

Elders are without sin.

Elders are sinful and fallen men. As such, elders must serve with humility recognizing their own frailty.

Elders are dictators.

Elders are called to serve the Bride of Christ. As such, elders should model loving, Christ-like, servant leadership.

Elders make unilateral decisions.

Elders are to recognize that each member is endowed with the Holy Spirit of God. As such, elders should seek the counsel of other mature Christians in the church.

Conclusions

Basswood is an _____ church.

We _____ infrequently.

Elders need frequent _____, honest _____, and joyful _____.

For Further Reading

John MacArthur, "Why Elder Rule?" <http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/qa203>
Alexander Strauch, *Biblical Eldership, Revised and Expanded*, 1995.