

“Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church:
Submission and Support of Pastors and Eldership”
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-19; Hebrews 13:17

- The preaching of God’s Word is the main means God uses to administer His grace/sanctify and save (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
 - *Preaching is a serious work (2 Timothy 4:1):* Every pastor and elder will stand before God and give account for their lives and their words. Jesus Christ sees all and hears all (James 3:1; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10).
 - *Preaching is proclaiming the Word, not our thoughts or opinions (2 Timothy 4:2):* Pastors and elders have been called to preach the full counsel of God, no matter how difficult or uncomfortable that might be (Acts 20:26-27).
 - *Preaching is to be done with urgency and ready to call people to repentance and encourage them (2 Timothy 4:2):* Pastors and elders are armed and ready with the truth, ready to address sin or to encourage the struggling saint (Hebrews 3:12-14).
 - *Preaching is to remain faithful and consistent even in rejection (2 Timothy 4:3-4):* Those who want to persist in sin will not tolerate the preaching of the Word of God. They will find “preaching” that allows them to be rebellious and unrepentant (Jeremiah 5:23-24 & 30-31).
- “Never take a biblical doctrine(s) more serious than the doctrine(s) of sin and holiness, grace and love. For in it, you find salvation, sanctification, and glorification. Without a primary focus on these four realities, you will get caught up in “lesser things” and it will lead to division within the local body of Christ. Love within the body of Christ is found in a focus on sin and holiness, grace and love.”*
- *The Preacher is to be morally excellent in his life as well (2 Timothy 4:5):* The Pastor and elder will have self-control, endure suffering with a proper attitude, will be evangelistic, and will persevere to the end.
- How do we glorify God in our relationship with our pastors and elders?
 - By treasuring the preaching/teaching of the Word by *attending the services* (Hebrews 10:23-24), *personally reading and memorizing scripture* (Psalm 19:7-11), and *walking* in accordance to the Word of God (Galatians 6:9-10).
 - By encouraging them with letters, text messages, your prayers, and by sacrificial commitment to the body of Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Romans 14:19).
 - By taking care of them physically and spiritually. A faithful pastor should never just “get by” or “survive”. He is supposed to receive double honor in respect and financially (1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Corinthians 9:14).
 - Esteem them highly in love (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13) because of the importance of their work. Speak well of them and overlook their weaknesses (Galatians 4:13-16).
 - Make their work enjoyable by submitting to them, eliminating strife and conflict, kill stubbornness and pride, love difficult people, and never be indifferent or critical (Hebrews 13:7 & 17).
 - Help build this body up by becoming a member (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) and use the gifts that God has given you in love (Ephesians 4:16). Never sit back and simply be a spectator but be a doer of the Word (James 1:22).
 - Relentlessly evangelize; share your faith. Invite people to church (Colossians 4:5-6; Romans 10:14-15). Fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

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“The spiritual life and faithfulness of a congregation always is closely related to the spiritual life and faithfulness of the pastor/elders.” (John MacArthur)

- The rewards of a faithful pastor are marvelous and it is a pleasure to serve Christ in this way. We should want to contribute to those who have faithfully contributed to us (1 Peter 5:4).

Announcements:

***4th Anniversary Celebration Dinner:** We will be celebrating our 4th anniversary as a church NEXT Sunday, March 21st. We will be having a Soup Fellowship Dinner immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign up to bring something for the dinner. We invite EVERYONE to please plan on staying for the Fellowship Dinner that night!

***Volunteers Needed:** We have a wonderful opportunity for our church members to get involved in serving our church body in the CHILDREN’S MINISTRY. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney!

***Evangelism Class:** Our next round for the Evangelism Class will be March 20th and 27th (the last two Saturdays of March). If you are interested in participating in this class, there is a sign-up list on the back table! The class is limited to 10 people! **This is the last night to sign up for the March class!

***Heartbeats:** We have an opportunity to support this local ministry in a very practical way. Because of the area where they are located, their yard and surrounding area becomes littered with trash quickly. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve this ministry by helping clean up the trash around the outside of their building and around their lot. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign up to volunteer to serve in this way. We are tentatively scheduling our weekly volunteer team to pick up trash on Saturdays at 9am. Please see Pastor Joel if you have any questions.

***Donations:** We will be collecting donations for Vertical 196 over the next 4 weeks. They are in need of the following items: men’s medium boxers, regular coffee, powdered drink mixes, hard candy, toilet bowl cleaner, dessert plates, 12 oz plastic cups, 12 oz paper coffee cups.