

“Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church:  
Biblical Eldership”

1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3:1-6

- What is the goal of Eldership?
  - (John 13:34-35) To love the flock as God through Christ has loved us. To desire the highest good for every member of the flock, namely, to experience God’s love and to walk in God’s love (John 17:23 & 26; 1 John 3:1; John 14:15).
  - (Colossians 1:28) We proclaim Christ/the Gospel; We address sin; We teach the Word of God; We strive to present every member of the flock mature in Christ.
- What is the work ethic of Eldership? (Colossians 1:29; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Acts 20:24).
  - We toil and struggle by the power of the Holy Spirit in us; We work hard as an example to the flock, both spiritually and physically; We give ourselves fully to the call and ministry we have received from the Lord.

*“There is no ease in ministry, we work to exhaustion. It takes a godly man to run a church.” (John MacArthur)*

- What is the means of Eldership accomplishing this task?
  - Strive for and practice holiness/to be above reproach (1 Timothy 3:1-6):
    - Faithful and devoted to his wife; He must think clearly in times of difficulty; He has a disciplined life; He uses his resources for the glory of God; He knows and can teach the Word; He is not given to addiction; He reacts calmly and gently with difficult people; He cannot love money; He practices loving authority in his home; He must have humility and not been a recent convert; He must have a good reputation in and outside of the church.
  - They lead for the glory of God according to His Word (1 Peter 5:1-4):
    - They look over the flock, that is, they feed, protect, discern and guide the flock.
    - They set the moral tone; they bring unity, never division; they solve problems, they don’t create them; they exalt God and others never themselves; Their authority is given by God and according to God’s Word.
  - They teach and preach the Word of God faithfully (2 Timothy 4:1-5):
    - They give instruction; They encourage and they call to repentance; They preach and teach to move people towards holy living; They will teach and preach the full counsel of God.
- They must be experts in both having discernment and dealing with discouragement:
  - *Discernment challenge:* They must be able to discern the difference between someone going through a season of weakness and struggle versus someone living with a rebellious heart. The difference between someone who is resistant to God’s Word and the church and its leadership or simply struggling. Someone who is sincere, humble, and often failing or someone who uses weakness as a cover up for an insubordinate heart of disobedience.
  - *Discouragement challenge:* They must be able to handle the frustration of pouring their lives out year after year and realizing they will lose people from their congregation, some people will not embrace a biblical worldview, and some people will hear every sermon and not move one inch towards holiness in their lives.

*“God knows how to manage our pride and discouragement. There is a great reward coming for elders who keep on lovingly and faithfully teaching and preaching the full counsel of the Word of God to their people.*

*Trusting God, while you are working exhaustively, will keep you from becoming embittered, cynical, and domineering.” (John Piper)*

(continued →)

**Worship:** Rock of Ages (Norton Hall Band)

Grace Alone (Kings Kaleidoscope)

In Tenderness (The Sing Team)

**Closing Song:** Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (City Aight)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

*“If the local church is looked at like a pair of socks, you will not benefit greatly from it. If the local church is looked at as a short term commitment you will not benefit greatly from it. If the local church is looked at as familial (a lifetime commitment) you will be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

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**Announcements:**

\***4th Anniversary Celebration Dinner:** We will be celebrating our 4th anniversary as a church TONIGHT! We are having a Soup Fellowship Dinner immediately following the worship service. We invite EVERYONE to please plan on staying for the Fellowship Dinner tonight!

\***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!

\***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.

\***Members Meeting:** We will be having a business meeting immediately following the worship service NEXT Sunday, March 28th. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for that meeting. We anticipate that it should last approximately 30 minutes.