

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY & CHURCH LEADERSHIP Pastoral Teaching Series

1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NKJV)

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Corinthians 12:27–29 (KJV 1900)

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. Clearly, God intends for there to be a _____ of spiritual leadership and authority with the church. Everyone is subject to the principle of spiritual authority.
2. In establishing His church, God provided for both _____ and _____ within the body!
3. Our response to God's authority structure should be _____.

Submission = to yield one's self to the authority or the will of another (Miriam Webster).

We are repeatedly admonished in the New Testament to submit ourselves to spiritual leadership (1 Corinthians 16:15-16, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:3, 1 Peter 5:5).

This is not a popular message in our culture, but it is critical.

SIX THINGS SUBMISSION IS NOT:

- Submission is not _____.
- Submission is not the absence of _____.

It is not checking your brain at the door. It is okay to ask questions and have an opinion.

- Submission is not the lack of _____.

It does not mean that you cannot the person you are submitted to.

- Submission does not mean you compromise the _____ of _____.

We are to obey God first.

- Submission does not mean _____.

You should not get all your strength and spiritual guidance from the person you are submitted to.

- Submission is not _____ in _____.

Who should we submit ourselves to? A

4. A shepherd should _____ and be _____ by the sheep (John 10:14).

John 10:14 (KJV 1900)

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

2 Timothy 3:10–14 (KJV 1900)

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

We should know their _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

5. Spiritual leaders are to be _____:

Matthew 20:25–27 (KJV 1900)

25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

6. Spiritual leaders will face a stricter _____:

James 3:1 (KJV 1900)

1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

II. THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR:

The role of a pastor is part of God's plan for _____ within His body!

Biblical terms for those who have oversight are: _____, _____ (presbyter), and a _____ (overseer).

1 Peter 5:1–4 (KJV 1900)

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Throughout the Book of Acts, the Apostles were careful to install elders or overseers in each church.

Acts 14:23 (KJV 1900)

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 20:27–31 (KJV 1900)

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

1. A pastor is a _____:
 - a. _____ and _____ for the saints
 - b. Protecting the local church body against _____

2. A pastor is to _____ and _____:

2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV 1900)

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 4:2–3 (KJV 1900)

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

- a. Authority is based on the Word of God, not personal opinions or preferences.
- b. Pastors are to _____ of the truth
- c. Pastors are to _____ and _____ error
- d. Pastors are to _____ = urging, admonishing and counseling

3. The pastor should do the work of an _____:

2 Timothy 4:5 (KJV 1900)

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

a. A pastor should be engaged in converting and discipling the lost

4. A pastor should be an _____:

Colossians 4:12 (KJV 1900)

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

James 5:14 (KJV 1900)

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

5. A pastor must a _____:

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (KJV 1900)

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

1 Peter 5:2 (KJV 1900)

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

6. A pastor must not be a _____:

1 Peter 5:3 (KJV 1900)

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

III. SUBMITTING TO PASTORAL AUTHORITY:

1. We are to _____ the pastor's faith and godly conduct:

1 Corinthians 11:1 (KJV 1900)

1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

2. We are to _____ the pastor's godly preaching, teaching, and exhortation:

Hebrews 13:7 (KJV 1900)

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

3. We are to _____ the pastor with prayers and finances:

Hebrews 13:18 (KJV 1900)

18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

1 Timothy 5:17–18 (KJV 1900)

17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

4. Be submissive and respectful without _____ or _____:

Trust, value, and heed the pastor's preaching, teaching, and guidance. If you disagree, remain respectful and do not cause _____.

Ephesians 4:1–6 (KJV 1900)

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:11–16 (KJV 1900)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.