



Ordination of Elders

2/26/17

Vows for New Elders

- 1 Do you accept the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally given to be the inerrant word of God? Do you trust and submit to their authority and hold them to be necessary, sufficient and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- 2 Do you believe the fundamentals of the doctrine in *The Baptist Faith and Message* and *The Lausanne Covenant* and find them to be consistent with the scriptures?
- 3 Do you promise to continue to live those qualities and practices required of elders in 1st Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1st Peter 5?
- 4 Do you promise to focus on the three priorities of loving God, loving one another and living the mission, and teach them to our congregation by your example and words?
- 5 Do you promise to faithfully practice the means of grace as listed in our *How to Grow* guide?
- 6 Do you promise to hold your wife and family as a higher priority than even your pastoral ministry to this church and do you promise to continually consider your wife's counsel concerning this priority?
- 7 Do you promise to maintain a lifestyle of moral alertness and discretion in heart and practice?
- 8 Do you promise to seek the guidance of our Chief Shepherd, praying for and ministering to the individuals, groups and ministries of this church?
- 9 Do you promise to study diligently and teach accurately the full council of the scriptures through your example and words?
- 10 Do you promise to help your fellow elders oversee all that takes place in the life and teaching of this church including its small groups and ministries?
- 11 Do you promise to help your fellow pastors protect this church from false teaching, worldly enticements or anything which would do the church harm? And do you promise to support this church's practice of church discipline consistent with the procedure, spirit and examples in Matthew 18 and 1st Corinthians 5?
- 12 Do you promise to love and serve this church family, exercising all the gifts which God has entrusted you?
- 13 Do you promise to practice the ministry of mutual submission and edification with your fellow elders in this church?
- 14 Do you promise to fulfill your pastoral role with a servant's heart, esteeming the members of this church and their welfare above your own?
- 15 Do you promise to promote both the purity and the unity of this church as well as the purity and the unity of the global body of Christ?
- 16 Do you promise that if at any time you find your beliefs or practices to be out of accord with these vows you will, on your own initiative, make known to the elders of this church the change which has taken place?

Vows for the Congregation

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

- 1 Do you receive these men as your pastors and as members of the pastoral team?
- 2 Do you promise to recognize them as God's provision for our guidance, equipping, edification, unity, and protection?
- 3 Do you promise to hold them in honor and appreciate their oversight?
- 4 Do you promise to pray for them and minister to them as our Chief Shepherd guide you?
- 5 Do you promise to consider well the needs of their wives and families?
- 6 Do you promise to accept and promote their practice of moral carefulness?
- 7 Do you promise to receive their teaching of scripture and consider their council and example with a submissive heart?
- 8 Do you promise to help them protect this church from false teaching, worldly enticements or anything which would do the church harm?
- 9 Do you promise to support their practice of church discipline consistent with the procedure, spirit and examples in Matthew 18 and 1st Corinthians 5?
- 10 Do you promise to encourage and support them in whatever ways may seem helpful?

Vows for Deacons

Acts 6:2 And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

³ But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Beyond the vows you made as a member of this congregation as a deacon,

- 1 Do you promise to do all within your power to serve the needs of this congregation in such a way that these elders can focus on the ministry of the word, prayer and their other responsibilities has pastors?
- 2 Do you promise to invite and receive their help, where useful, in your ministry to this congregation as a deacon?
- 3 Do you promise to receive their leadership and work together with them in all things needed for the well-being of this church?

Vows for Fellow Elders

Beyond the vows you made as a member of this congregation as a fellow elder,

- 1 Do you promise to receive these men as your fellow elders and members with equal authority on your pastoral team?
- 2 Do you promise to exemplify the ministry of mutual submission and edification with these fellow elders?
- 3 Do you promise to work together as equal partners in the leadership, teaching, oversight and protection of this church?
- 4 Do you promise to promote their training and development as pastors and will you do all within your power to help them fulfill their pastoral vows?

1 Timothy 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.

² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.

⁴ *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?);

⁶ *and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

All Scripture is from the NASV