

Excerpts From Our Elders Manual

Elder Ordination 10/29/23

1 Timothy 1:5 ...the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

⁶ For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

² for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,

⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *borne* at the proper time.

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.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

¹³ Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading *of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

¹⁴ Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

¹⁵ Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

¹⁶ Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

1 Timothy 5:1 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, *to* the younger men as brothers,

² the older women as mothers, *and* the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

³ Honor widows who are widows indeed;

1 Timothy 6:6 ...godliness *actually* is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

⁸ And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.

Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

⁶ *namely*, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach*, for the sake of sordid gain.

¹² One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

¹³ This testimony is true. For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith,

¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Titus 2:9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

¹⁵ These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

² to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

³ For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

⁸ This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

2 Timothy 1:6 ...for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

⁹ who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

² And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

³ Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:10 you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me!

¹² And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*;

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4:5 ...you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Vows for the Ordination of Elders

Elder Ordination 10/29/23

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 So 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 council 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 it's small groups and ministries?

- 11 Do you promise to help your fellow pastors protect this church from false teaching, worldly enticements, or anything that 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 Do you receive these men as your elders and as members of the elder team?
- 2 Do you 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 guides 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 Will you 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 Will you encourage and support them in whatever ways may seem helpful?

Vows for Deacons

Beyond the vows you made as members of this congregation as deacons,

- 1 Will you 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 as shepherds?
- 2 Will you invite and receive their help, where useful, in your ministry to this congregation?
- 3 Will you 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 we made as members of this congregation, as fellow elders,

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