

Leadership in The Last Days

Elder Ordination 3/10/24

2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful...

... ¹⁰ But 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.

4:1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

⁵ But 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.

All scripture is from the NASV

Vows for the Ordination of Elders

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 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 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 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