

## The Doctrine of the Church, part 3

### 1. What is power and authority?

- *Power* is the capacity or potential to influence. People have power when they have the ability to affect other's beliefs, attitudes, and courses of action. But, power is positive or negative based on relationships
- *Authority* is power given to someone to influence or command. Someone authorized to lead.
- Two kinds of power
- *Position power*: the power a person derives from a particular office or rank in a formal organization
  - Coercive: having the capacity to penalize or punish others
  - Reward: having the capacity to provide rewards to others
  - Legitimate: having status or formal job authority
- *Personal Power*: the influence capacity a leader derives from being seen by followers as likable and knowledgeable.
  - Expert: followers perceive the leader as competent or having special knowledge
  - Referent: followers identify with or like the leader
- Why do followers follow leaders?
  - Self-interest. They have to want to follow.
  - The benefits of following outweigh the benefits of not following.
  - The cost of resisting is higher than the cost of going along.

### 2. What is the nature of authority in the church? Who has it, where does it come from?

- Christ is the head
- Scripture is the word of God
- Pastor
  - Pastors who are called by God and a congregation are invested with a certain amount of authority to lead the church. Position/Legitimate Power, Personal/Expert Power and Referent Power
    - Hebrews 13:7, 17
  - But pastoral authority involves calling, responsibility and accountability.
  - It is also subject to the authority of Scripture and the priesthood of believers.
- Congregation
  - Must want to follow Christ and hold to the authority of scripture
  - Must invest the Pastor with authority and work to help that Pastor succeed.
  - Members of the congregation have more power and influence with one another than Pastors do. Members usually desire to conform to one another.

### 3. In a congregational church, what makes a member either good or bad?

- First: level of engagement; some is better than none
- Second: motivation; being motivated by the public interest is better than being motivated by self-interest

### 4. What is "servant-leadership?"

- As the head, Christ will lead us. Leaders in the church are described as servants, meaning:
  - They first follow the Lord, attending to His desires and agenda
  - They secondly look to the needs of their fellow servants.
- 3 fundamental qualities of a servant-leader
  - *Proven Character* – refined product that emerges from a process of testing.
    - Could be life experiences refining a person
    - Could be examining a person's life to demonstrate a pattern of behavior
  - *Doxological Motive* – a passion for God's honor and a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of God's people
  - *Divine Agenda* – a determination to be about the Lord's mission as defined in Scripture
    - Evangelization of the lost
    - Edifying the saved

- Establishing vital churches

- The one distinguishing characteristic of a servant-leader is humility.
  - Accurate self-assessment
  - Sense of transcendence
  - Sense of openness

5. What does it mean to be called into the ministry? The call to ministry involves certain aspects:

- A *calling* from God – a supernatural experience in which God sets a person’s life apart for Himself and His purposes.
- An *office* in the church – the church bears witness to God’s calling and affirms it by setting apart a person for a specific ministry within the church.
- Ministry is a *profession* – God calls some to vocational ministry to be employed by churches.
  - The importance to God and to the church of the pastoral task requires one to be as prepared as possible for that task.