



May 22, 2011

**Love God,  
Love each other,  
Serve the world.**

## **“The Pastor / Teaching Elder”**

### **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

*<sup>1</sup>The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup>for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

### **1 Timothy 5:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup>Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup>For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." <sup>19</sup>Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup>As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.*

### **1 Peter 5:1-4**

*<sup>1</sup>So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup>not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

# Introduction

1. What does the Bible teach about pastors?

**Eph. 4:11-16** <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

2. Why do Presbyterians use the terms “ruling elder” and “teaching elder”?  
*I Timothy 5:17-23*

3. What is the most IMPORTANT QUALITY of an *elder*? *I Timothy 3:1-7*  
and *Titus 1:1-9*

	<u><i>I Tim.</i></u>	<u><i>Titus</i></u>
a. <i>above reproach</i>	*	*
b. <i>husband of one wife</i>	*	*
c. <i>sober-minded</i>	*	
d. <i>self-controlled</i>	*	*
e. <i>respectable</i>	*	
f. <i>hospitable</i>	*	*
g. <i>able to teach</i>	*	
h. <i>not a drunkard</i>	*	*
i. <i>not violent but gentle</i>	*	*
j. <i>not quarrelsome</i>	*	
k. <i>not a lover of money</i>	*	
l. <i>must manage household / children</i>	*	*
m. <i>not a recent convert</i>	*	
n. <i>well thought of by outsiders</i>	*	
o. <i>not arrogant</i>	*	

	<u>I Tim.</u>	<u>Titus</u>
<i>p. not quick-tempered</i>		*
<i>q. a lover of good</i>		*
<i>r. upright</i>		*
<i>s. holy</i>		*
<i>t. disciplined</i>		*
<i>u. "biblically &amp; theologically literate"</i>		1:9

4. What is a pastor's PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY? *II Timothy 4:1-5, Ephesians 4:11-12, I Peter 5:1-5*
5. Should pastors be held accountable?
6. Who is the authority in the church?
7. Can a congregation have an unfair and unbiblical expectation of their pastor? (too high)
8. Can a congregation lack biblical expectations of their pastor? (too low)
9. Why do we pay pastors / teaching elders? *I Cor. 9:3-14*
10. What will the next pastor of SPC look like?
11. Pastors/elders must UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL !

## **EPC Ordination Vows for Teaching Elders (TE) and Ruling Elders (RE)**

- TE/RE: 1.** Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
- TE/RE: 2.** Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- TE/RE: 3.** Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
- TE/RE: 4.** Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures and as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
- TE/RE: 5.** Do you affirm and adopt the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception?
- TE/RE: 6.** Do you subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?
- TE/RE: 7.** Do you promise subjection to your fellow Presbyters in the Lord?
- TE/RE: 8.** Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the **(TE: holy Ministry) (RE: Ruling Elder)** from love to God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son?
- TE/RE: 9.** Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?
- TE: 10.** Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as **a Christian and a Minister of the Gospel**, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before **the flock of which God shall make you overseer?**

**RE: 10.** Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as **Ruling Elder**, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before **this congregation of which God will make you an officer?**

**TE: 11.** Are you now willing to take the charge of this Church, agreeable to your declaration when accepting their call? And do you, relying upon God for strength, promise to discharge to it the duties of a Pastor?

**RE: 11.** Are you now willing to take responsibility in the life of this congregation as a Ruling Elder, and will you seek to discharge your duties, relying upon the Grace of God, in such a way that the entire Church of Jesus Christ will be blessed?

### **Congregational Vows for Teaching Elder:**

1. Are you, the members of this congregation ready to receive (name) as your Pastor?
2. Do you promise to submit to (name) in matters of spiritual discipline, and to receive with humility and love the word of truth?
3. Do you promise to support your Pastor with your prayers, to give encouragement in his/her work, and to assist him/her in every way as he/she seeks to instruct you in the things of the Lord and to lead you in the building of the Kingdom of God in this place?
4. Do you recommit yourselves to fulfill the terms of the call you have extended and to make provision for your pastor's needs that the name of Christ might be glorified?

### **Congregational Vows for Ruling Elder:**

Do you, the members of this congregation, continue to receive this (these) person(s) as Ruling Elder(s), and do you continue your promise to yield him/her/ them and all your officers all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which the ordination as an officer entitles him/her/them, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?