

## Course Outline

Class 1 *Unity*

Class 2 *Church Membership*

Class 3 *Preaching*

Class 4 *Prayer*

Class 5 *Ordinances*

Class 6 *Church Governance*

Class 7 *Church Fellowship*

Class 8 *Discontentment Within the Church*

Class 9 *Church Leadership*

### **NEXT:**

Class 10 *Church Discipline*

Class 11 *Giving and Service*

Class 12 *Corporate Worship*

Class 13 *Evangelism*

## LIVING AS A CHURCH



### **Class 9: Church Leadership** *Submission for the Sake of Unity*

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#### **I. Introduction**

Church government: neither representative democracy nor authoritarianism

A balance between elder leadership (Hebrews 13:17) and congregational responsibility (Ephesians 4:12)

#### **II. “Make their work a joy and not a burden”**

“It is a matter of fact that we are often slow to realize to this day that effective leadership in the church demands effective following. If we are continually critical of them that are set over us, small wonder if they are unable to perform the miracles that we demand of them.” – Leon Morris

#### Six ways to make ourselves easy to lead:

1. Believe in Jesus Christ and walk in obedience

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” – 3 John 4

2. Cultivate and preserve unity in the body

Psalm 133:1

.....Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

How can we function as “shock absorbers?”

- Let a concern for unity begin with your actions
- Act lovingly to prepare others to forgive, receive correction, etc. (I Peter 4:8)

- Remember that opinions are temporary but people are eternal
- Encourage others to trust church leaders
- Confront divisiveness as sin

### 3. Pray for church leaders

II Corinthians 1:10-11

“... then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”

### 4. Express your care for them

II Corinthians 7:5-7

### 5. Seek their council and accept their reproof

To do this successfully, leaders must know our lives

“Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.”  
Proverbs 9:8

### 6. Believe the best about their character and decisions

“Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.”

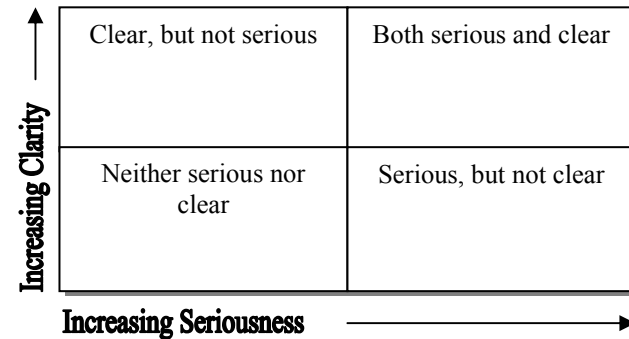
I Thessalonians 5:12-13

“A loving member will assume the best about his leaders and trust them until some clear words or actions cause him legitimate concern about their wisdom or motives.”

Mack, Swavely: *Life in the Father's House*

- Listening to accusations
- Bringing accusations

## III. What do we do when we disagree?



1. Clear, but not serious
2. Neither serious nor clear
3. Serious, but not clear

This is where the elders serve the church the most.

- Bringing information to the elders
  - Trusting their decision
  - When you disagree, give yourself opportunity to be persuaded by their reasoning. But OK to trust even while disagreeing.
  - Be careful in conversation with others
4. Serious and clear

Issues of discipline and doctrine: time for the church to act

- Avoid secret campaigning
- Seek godly counsel
- Protect the reputation of Christ in his church
- Replace elders who cannot be trusted