

# RETHINKING CHURCH

SESSION 5 | JULY 2, 2017 | THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACONS

## HOW TO MAKE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP WORK

- The calling of the Pastor—1 Tim. 4:14-16, 5:22
- The “fellowship” of the Pastor—Heb. 13:17
  - The difference between Rev. 2:27 and 7:17 is the fellowship, not the word!
- The love of the church—1 Tim 5:17-18
- The spirit of the Pastor—John 13:13-15

## THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACONS

- Why do we have deacons?
  - Acts 6, the prototype of the Deacon.
  - The picture of one waiting tables is the indelible picture God desired to give the church through the Deacon.
- What does deacon mean?
  - Servant
  - Not “overseer.”
  - The Greek noun is used 29 times in the New Testament, and is translated servant 26 times and deacon 3 times.
  - The deacon as deacon gives no spiritual, financial, or programmatic oversight to the congregation.
- How does one become a deacon?
  - The church selects them from among the qualified men in the congregation. (1 Timothy 3)
  - The Pastor ordains them to the service ministry of the church, under his direction. (Acts 6)
- How do the deacons carry out their ministry?
  - In the qualifications of the Scripture.
  - At the pleasure of the church.
  - Under the parameters of the Pastor.
- Why has deacon ministry been problematic?
  - Deacons became overseers.
  - Pastors became servants.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACON MINISTRY—ACTS 6

- A good reputation within the church.
  - They regularly attend the worship and ministry activities of the church.
- A fullness of Spirit and wisdom discernible by the church.
  - Their reputation bespeaks their walk in the Word.
- An ability and initiative to minister to the needs of the membership.
  - The work comes naturally and does not have to be coaxed by the Pastor.

## DEACONS AND PROBLEM SOLVING

- Deacons will inevitably be introduced to problems within the church fellowship.
- The fellowship of the church is more important than the problem, unless the problem is sin or unorthodox doctrine.
- The role of the deacon is to be the mentor in problem solving, not to become the problem solver.

## MENTORING TOWARD PROBLEM RESOLUTION

- Help them to see whether this is an offense they can overlook?
  - Proverbs 19:11
- Help them to see their part in the problem.
  - James 4:1
- Help them understand the Biblical means of peacemaking:
  - Go to the individual to clearly state the offense and seek resolution.
  - Go to the individual with two or three others to repeat the offense and seek resolution.
  - Take the matter to the assembly to repeat the offense and seek resolution.

## SOLVING A PASTORAL SIN

- Require two witnesses of sinful behavior before the accusation is accepted.
- The two witnesses should confront the Pastor, seeking resolution.
- If resolution is not found, the matter should go to the church.
  - 1 Timothy 5:19-20