

## Shepherd Leader Training (2nd Draft)

### *Schedule and Syllabus*

#### Welcome, Introduction, Organization

[CPC Elder Training ppt](#)

#### Schedule:

Classroom Participation: (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night at 7:30)

- 16 Sessions 2 Sessions/mo plus 2 Reading Months
  - August and December (Reading Months to “Get Ahead”)
  - Sept-Nov [6 sessions]
  - Jan—April, 8 sessions
- Venue:
  - 2 In-Person Sessions ( 1<sup>st</sup> Class in September (9/20), Last Session November (11/16)
  - All others via zoom- Meeting ID: 604 586 849

Mentoring Participation: (zoom or in person)

- Scheduled Meeting with Sr. Pastor 1/mo: (prefer in- person but zoom also available, if married and both in class, can meet either together or one on one via zoom or in person).
- Scheduled Meeting with Assigned Shepherd 1-2 times per semester

Constitutional Texts

- [Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms](#)
- [PCA Book of Church Order](#)

#### Part 1:

#### The Office, Duties and Qualifications of A Shepherd Leader

**August Reading Assignments:** (note, all are assigned within scheduled classed, the purpose of the reading month is to give you a chance to get ahead).

- Timothy Witmer, *The Shepherd Leader* (Chapters 1-9)
- Encouraged to read more to get ahead as well.

#### I. The Succession and Ordination of Shepherd Leaders (9/20) IN-PERSON

- Reading Assignment:
  - (PRIOR READING) Timothy Witmer, *The Shepherd Leader* (Chapters 1-4)
  - (READ) [PCA Book of Church Order](#)-- Preface, Chapter 1

- [Samuel Miller, Ruler Elder](#) (Part 1, Chapter 1:Introduction (READ): Chapter 8: Necessity of...(SKIM)

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why is metaphor of shepherd appropriate for the relation between God and the church?
  - 2) Difference between Shepherd and Father
  - 3) How can it be appropriate to call a person in relation to the church what we call God in relation to the church.
  - 4) How would you make the case for Shepherd Elders to someone?
- *In Class Biblical Review*
    - Do you believe in the institution of Shepherd-Elders? Why?
      - Mt. 8:18-38, Ezek.34:1-6, 11-16: [Christ the True Shepherd](#)
      - Mt 10:1-13 [The Call To Shepherd Leadership](#)
      - Acts 20, [Shepherd Ordination](#)

## II. The Vocation and Calling of a Shepherd Leader 10/4/21

- Reading Assignment:
  - (READ) PCA Book of Church Order: Part 1: Chapters: 8, 16-17, 24
    - **8-3.** It belongs to those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of morals enter therein. They must exercise government and discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock entrusted to their care by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted, make disciples, and demonstrate hospitality. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.
  - (PRIOR READING) Timothy Witmer, *Shepherd Leader* chapter 5-9
  - (READ) [Phil Ryken, Suffering Ministry in Union with Christ](#)

In Class Discussion:

- 1) In your own words, what is a shepherd leader called to do?
  - 2) What is the significance of “knowing, teaching, leading and protecting the sheep of God?
  - 3) What is the challenge of knowing, teaching, leading and protecting for the shepherd leader?
  - 4) How might Ryken change the way you view suffering in ministry?
  - 5) Why is suffering so important in ministry?
- In Class Biblical Review: (The Calling to Shepherd)
    - 1 Peter 5:1ff, [Mediatorial Shepherding](#)

## PRAY For God's Wisdom and Power In/through us Through Shepherding

- In Class Biblical Review: "The Calling to Suffer"
  - John 14:8-29, 15:18-25 "[The Destroyer of the Gods](#)"
  - Philip 1:2ff [Love and Death](#)
  - Mt 18:1—14, The Esteemed Ones
  - 1 Cor 9- The Sacred Vow of Poverty

PRAY God's Wisdom and Power Through Suffering

### III. The Qualifications and Characteristics of A Shepherd Leader (10/18/21)

- *Reading Assignment:*
  - (READ) BCO 8.1, 24.1 (16, 17)
  - (SKIM) [Samuel Miller, Ruling Elder](#), Chapter 11: Qualifications
  - (READ) [Summary of Oswald Sanders, Spiritual Leadership](#)
  - (READ) Selected short articles taken from [RW360](#) in exploration of relational Character (c.f. John's "Love one-another" (e.g. Relational Character )
    - [Discover RW](#)  
Relational wisdom, in essence, is the desire and ability to live out Jesus' two Great Commandments, namely, to **love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself** ([Matt. 22:37-39](#)). Relational wisdom may also be defined as *your ability to discern emotions, interests and abilities in yourself and others, to interpret this information in the light of God's Word, and to use these insights to manage your responses and relationships successfully.*
    - [Biblical Foundation](#)
    - [RW Acrostics in Action](#)
    - [RW and the Gospel](#)
    - [Values-Based RW](#)
    - [RW in the Workplace](#)
- Supplemental Reading:
  - Tim Keller, [Character and Ministry](#)
  - [Handout on Relational Wisdom](#)

#### *In Class Biblical Review:*

- [Titus 1:5ff](#)
- 1 Tim 3
- **1 Cor 13**
- John's "Love One-Anothering)

#### Classroom Discussion:

- Jointly-- Read Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Cor 13:4-13
- Breakout Rooms- Compare/Contrast the two Virtues List
  - How do they differ
  - What kind of person is the Titus 1 person generally speaking?
  - What kind of person is the 1Cor 13 person?

- Why are they BOTH important sets of characteristics for a Shepherd Leader
- Jointly-
  - Discuss comparative observations from BO Groups
  - Review Titus 1/1 tim 3 Godliness Attributes (Miller)
  - Jointly Review Relational Wisdom (RW) (C.f. Handout, note worksheet at end)
- Break Out--Developing Empathy "The Young Tai Man" (Utube)
  - What emotions did you observe in the various people in this clip?
  - Did you see the humiliation, hopelessness, frustration, and loneliness that the young man saw in the people around him?
  - Did you see his kindness, gentleness, patience, hope and joy ... and how his actions infused others with similar feelings? That's the fruit of empathy.
- Jointly- Review [Seven Steps to Empathy](#)
- Prayer

#### IV. Biblical Church Polity: Biblical Offices Distinguished 11/1/21

##### *Reading Assignment:*

- (READ) [PCA Book of Church Order](#), 5 (note particularization requirements), Chapter 6-15
- (READ) [Apostolic Church](#) **Multi-Form**
- (SKIM) [F. Torrance, Eldership In The Reformed Church](#) (The "2.0"- Bishop-Elder, Deacon-Elder Position (Continental Reformed/Presbyterian/CPC)

##### *In Class Biblical Review and Handouts*

- (Break Out Rooms) Apostolic Church [Study Guide:](#)
- Handout: [Ecclesial Polity](#) (Offices)**Part 1:Ecclesial Offices** **MULTi-Form**
- [Handout on "Priest with No Name--](#) Pastoral Theology and offices Distinguished **Multi-form**

##### *Supplementary Reading as Desired:*

- [Samuel Miller, The Ruling Elder](#) (Chapter 10) The "2.5" Position (PCA)
- Preston Graham, [Priest With No Name](#) **Office**

##### *In Class*

- Acts 6
  - tables—very difficult to pin down necessarily... i.e. literally, "table" or more generally "food/meals" or more specifically, ceremonial table as related to belonging to a particular religious group as evidenced by ceremonial teaching... ) for instance, 1Cor.10:21!!!! *You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.*
  - Note that the 12 gathered the congregation together in order to share the problem in include them in the solution... i.e. this is one of those passages that we would turn to as to

why we "elect" elders, deacons and pastors even as they much be found to have achieved a certain level of maturity and biblical orthodoxy by a peers of equals...

- 2. description of men—similar in qualifications to elder, not similiarity to DT. 9...
- "appoint" see below on ordination...

*Laying on of hands*—whatever else we are talking about here—this was a ministry of the church, clearly instituted by the apostles, as related to the apostolic formation of the church... (i.e. see "laying on of hands... ordination... Chapter 7) We will notice first of all how the term "appoint" is applied to the offices of ministry in the pastoral epistles (Titus 1:5). This is significant since the pastoral epistles were written as instructions for the church as it was to continue on after the apostolic era.

The appointment of officers (however one may name them) in the church is accompanied by the "laying on of hands" first by the apostles (Acts 8:18) and later by the "presbytery" (1 Tim. 4:14, KJV), indicating an authorization that is ultimately traced back to Christ insofar as he authorized the apostles to do this (Mt. 16:18, Eph. 2:20).

Therefore, while we do not hold to a human succession traced through human lineage as the Roman church does, we do recognize a lineage that has been handed down through presbyteries, or that corporate body called the church in 1 Tim. 3:15, which is the guardian of the truth.

- Phil. 1:1-- Paul recognized two, not three offices in this passage-- the question it would seem is why would Paul exclude the "elders" or call them "deacons" here if elsewhere he called them "elders." Or why wouldn't he distinguish those who teach from those who "bishop" if they were different? An understanding of "deacon" as applied to those who serve in assistance to the pastor seems best to fit its use in Phil. 1:1" Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the **bishops and DEACONS...**" I.e. Apostles, teaching elders, deacons (as those who assist in shepherding/governing the flock of God.
- 1 Timothy 3:8ff--  
The qualifications are almost identical except that they are not "apt teachers." Otherwise, they are men who are clearly godly and men of sound doctrine who would be wise so as to rule well. (Note Acts 6:1-6 below) I.e. Both offices seem to describe the qualifications of a governor of the church-- the first as a teaching/governor, the others as ruling governors so designated by the name "servants." In this since, they "assist" the teaching elders even as described in Acts. 6.
- Act 6:1-6--This passages seems to establish, albeit in embryonic fashion, a second office in the church. By itself, it would be troublesome to derive an office from this passage. But when compared to the above two passages, it seems to suggest the formation of a second office. And what distinguishes this second office from the other is that one "serves" while the others "teach." The question then is what was the nature of this service? We have

tended to reduce the service to merely that of serving tables-- as if to cook and distribute food. But the context clearly suggest contention and faction in the church whereby the "servants" would be required to "rule" and "judge" so as to execute justice in caring for the saints.

## V. Biblical Church Polity: Church Government, Appellate System Distinguished And Order In the Courts (11/16/21) **IN PERSON**

- *Reading Assignments:* (note: seems like a lot, but many are very short 2ish page reads)
  - (Note PRIOR READING) Timothy Witmer, *Shepherd Leader* 4, Part 2 Intro, chapter 5.
  - (READ) BCO 10, 17, 18, 21-4(esp. "d."), 45.
    - REVIEW [BCO Review Church Courts](#)
  - On Subscription
    - [SKIM] Brief Summary of [Adopting Act of 1729](#) (WIKI)
    - [READ] \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Compare with BCO 21-4d on Subscription)
  - On Conduct in the Courts:
    - [READ] [Roberts Rules Simplified](#) Order-Polity
    - [READ] David Gordon, [Arguments In the Court](#) Regulative Principal
    - [SKIM] Southern New England Presbytery [RULES OF ORDER](#) Order-POLity
  - [READ] Second Part: "THE ORGANIC PRINCIPLE" --- Edmund Clowney, [The Distinctive Emphasis in Presbyterian Polity](#) - Multi-Form
- *In Class Biblical Review and Discussion*
  - [Acts 15:1-35](#) (Dt 1:11-18)
  - [Ecclesial Polity](#) Part 2: Regional Church-- Synods and Counsels (Session, Presbytery, General Assembly)
  - [Break Out] [Use Handout Part 2 "The Organic Principal,"](#) Edmund Clowney
    - (note Discussion Questions)
  - PG Handout: [Principles of Order Toward an Efficient, Fair and Principled Deliberative Process](#) Order-Polity
  - Review Arguments in the Court
  - Review? [Letter on Clerical Manners...\(NOTES from Samuel Miller\)](#) Order-Polity

### *Supplemental Readings:*

- Samuel Miller, [Letter on Clerical Manners and Habits in the Courts](#)
- [Samuel Miller on Subscription](#)
- Preston Graham, [In Union with Christ, the Liturgy of Polity](#)
- In Class

## Part 2:

## Principals in Ecclesiology Pertaining To The Ministry of Shepherding the Flock of God

## December Reading Assignments: Readings assigned to VI Below

(note, all are assigned within scheduled classes, the purpose of reading month is to give you a chance to get ahead).

### VI. First Principles Concerning the Nature of the Church

- *Reading Assignments*

- [SKIM] T. F. Torrance, [Royal Priesthood, Chapter 1](#), [READ] [Chapter 2: The Function of the Body of Christ-- The Church As Christ's Presence](#)
- (READ) Preston Graham, [A Sacramental Theology of the Gospel: Rediscovering the Saving Presence of Christ In The Church](#) c.f. Study Guide in MA Handouts)
  - (OR READ) [Why We Plant Churches](#)
- (SKIM) MA Website: [Our Total Christ Vision](#)

- *In Class Biblical Review*(SKIM)

- [Royal Priesthood Discussion Guide](#)
- [Sacramental Theology of the Gospel Study Guide](#)

Part 1: Biblical Review: "Christ vis-a-vis history"

- p. 48- place, spirit, new creation
- p. 49- Read/Discuss Psm 46
- p 50 footnotes– temple Creation/New creation
- p 53- John's gospel– creation (prologue) to temple (vs. 14

Part 2: Sacramental Gospel via Temple Church Applied: [Break Out]

How does a Biblical Theology of the Gospel through Christ "vis-a-vis History in/with/through temple church by the Spirit" impact the way we think of

- Evangelism
- Conversion
- Lordship Supper – how do we partake of LS apart from LS?
- Search for Human Identity/Home

- *Supplemental Readings*

- Preston Graham, [Sola Christus Against Total Christus Reconsidered](#) (c.f. Study Guide in MA Handouts)
- Preston Graham [Prolegomena In Totus Christus Ecclesiology](#) c.f. Study Guide in MA Handouts)
- Richard Gaffin, *Perspective on Pentecost*, Chapter 1
- Handout, [The Church As An Essential Element of the Gospel](#)

### VII. First Principles Concerning the Extent and Limit of Church Power (1/17/22)

- *Reading Assignments*

- (READ during December Break Reading Assignment):
  - James Bannerman, Church of God ([Abbreviated Edition and Study Guide](#)) READ (Vol 1, Part 1, Chapter 2, Vol 1, Part 2, 1, 3-5) -- *The Church By Positive Institution*
  - OR James Bannerman, Church of God ([Unabridged, PDF "copied- messy"](#))
  - [Book of Church Order](#), Preface (Sections 1 & 2), Part 1, chapter 1-3
  - PCA *Confession of Faith*, [Use of Scripture, Chapter 1, section 4- 7](#), [Chapter 20, On Christian Liberty](#),
  - (READ) Edmund Clowney, Sections "Intro" and "The Regulative Principle" [The Distinctive Emphasis in Presbyterian Polity](#) (c.f. Study Guide in MA Handouts)
  - (READ) David Gordon, [The Regulative Principal: Argued From Charity](#) Regulative Principal
  - [ John Murray], [The Weak and the Strong](#) Regulative Principal

• In Class Biblical Review and Handout

*Eph 1;22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

- Review Extent-Limits of Church Power
  - Roman 14-15
  - WCF BCO Part 1:1-3
- Review Nature of CHURCH from the covenantal (Jure Divino) perspective) [James Bannerman Church of God](#) via
  - From "Abridged..." by Ryan McCraw
  - · Vol 1, Part 1.2 "Church As a Divine and Spiritual Institution"
  - · Vol 1 Part 2 "Power of the Church"
    - 2.1—Source of Power
    - 2.2—Rule of Law of Church Power
    - 2.3- Nature of Church Power
    - 2.4—The Extent and Limit of Church Power
    - 2.5- The Ends of Church Power
- Break Out Groups— Discussion on Edmund Clowney, Part 1: Regulative Principal  
 (The discussion questions correspond to quotes that are circled in blue in the Clowney Article. Each question is noted by the number beside the circled quotes)
  1. The key word is "beside..." Why is this important? What exactly is at stake (Both related to God and God's people? Can you think of instances that are not contrary to but *beside* the good and necessary inference of scripture that the church might be tempted to "bind" conscience by asserting its definitive morality?
  2. What the reformers called "will-worship," could include what? E.g What are some instances where we might be tempted to fall in to "will worship" either by inserting a criteria that is beyond scripture in how to evaluate worship, or by expecting something as if edifying that is beyond scripture.



3. What are some examples of “circumstances” that while “directed” by the general intent of scripture concerning the government or worship of the church, are to be determined by the light of nature and Christian prudence? Can you think of some instances this past couple of years?
  4. What do you think are some instances of “directed” forms of executing the elements of worship that would be determined by what is common to the particular society that a local church is called to reach? Think for instance about the difference between doing the same elements in worship, but in different socially informed “forms” between say CPC NH and CPC Hill.
  5. Often referred to as the “argument from Christian charity”-- what are some of the reasons, beyond preserving the exclusive Lordship of Jesus Christ over the church, that illustrates the grace and love of the regulative principal. Think of ways human society can “oppress” one another by their “form” of religion (vs. their religion by positive institution in scripture alone).
- Before next meeting-skim Handout: [Church Power Handout](#)

## VIII. Church Discipline Explored and Applied (2/7/22) **IN-PERSON**

### *Reading Assignment:*

- 1 Thess 2:1-12, 1 Cor.5:1-13, 2 Cor 5:18-21,
- Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 33-35
- (Skim)BCO, Part II, 27-46
- [READ] Daniel Wray, [Biblical Church Discipline](#)
- [READ] Preston Graham [Discipleship and Visitation](#)
- (READ) Serge, [Asking Disruptive Questions](#)
- (READ) Scott Sauls, [Confronting and Repenting](#)

### *In Class Review:*

- Handout: [Church Discipline In Practice](#) Discipline-Order
- [Church Government and Discipline](#) Discipline-Order
- [Church Courts \(Relevant BCO citations and explanations\)](#) Discipline-Order
- [Case Study In Church Discipline](#) Discipline-Order
- [An Abbreviated Cheat Sheet for Cases of Discipline](#) Discipline-Order

## IX. Ecumenism and Church Unity and Peace Making (2/17/22) **IN PERSON**

### *Reading Assignment*

- Review [History of Subscription up through PCA](#) **Unity**
  - (Compare with BCO 21-4d on Subscription)
- (READ) Preston Graham, Lesslie Newbigin's [Missional Ecclesiology Explored: A Christo-Centric Proposal For Ecumenism...](#) **Unity**
- (READ) [Summary Argument Against Schism in the Local Church:](#) **Unity**
- WATCH/LISTEN) Ken Sande, [Gospel-Driven Peacemaking](#)

- [SKIM] Selections from RW360 “Conciliation”
  - [Biblical Peacemaking](#)
  - [The Four G’s](#)
  - [Slippery Slope of Conflict](#)
  - [Getting to the Heart](#)
  - [Seven A’s of Confession](#)
  - [Forgiveness](#)
  - [PAUSE Negotiation](#)

*In Class Biblical Review and Handouts:*

Biblical Review:

Part 1: The Biblical Mandate TO BE Reconciled and therefore TO DO Reconciliation

John 17

Ephesians 1, 3, 4

Part 2: Personal Reconciliation In The Local Church

- Review: I: [Summary Argument Against Schism in the Local Church: Unity](#)
- Break Out– Two Questions with reference to Ken Sande’s “Gospel Centered Peacemaking” (lecture) and RW360 “Reconciliation” Web Pages
  - How does living under the law effect the way we do conflict?  
e.g. Vestiges of the “old self” identity– Still living in fear of condemnation and rejection, still relying upon keeping the law to justify ourselves...
  - How does the gospel make a difference in conflict resolution?  
E.g. Transformed by “new self: identity - Living assured of being reconciled to God without fear of condemnation and rejection because of God’s initiative and willingness to love me even while I was his enemy, no longer lay relying but grace relying, now set free to love because I am already loved...
- Review Break Out Discussions and Review of Ken Sande’s [Gospel Driven Peace Making](#)
  - [Handout](#)
  - [Seven Peace Making Responses To The Gospel](#)
  - [Eight “A’s” of Biblical Confession](#)

Part 2: Institutional Ecumenism in the Global Church

- Review Lesslie Newbign’s [Christo-Centric Ecumenism”](#)

*Supplemental Reading:*

- Lesslie Newbign, Household of God, Chapter 1-3

### **Part 3: Issues in Shepherding**

## XI: The Issue of Sacramental Efficacy Applied To Ministry and Spirituality 3/7/22– IN PERSON

### *Reading Assignments*

- WCF 27-29, BCO Part III (chapters 47-57)
- READ– Preston Graham, [Mystery and Manners](#) (Paper Delivered at SNEP Presbytery) **Note Red instructions for what to read and not. Of course your welcome to read it all but it does get quite ‘thick’ (but not academic :))** c.f. Study Guide in MA Handouts c.f. Study Guide in MA Handouts)
- READ [Membership Manual Part 3](#)
- SKIM Handout; [From Baptism To Lord’s Supper](#)

### *In Class Biblical Review and Handouts*

- Review “Mystery and Manners”
  - Is there a difference between a sacramental church and the church that does sacraments?
  - What is the mystery that we need to embrace?
  - What are some of the manners we need to embrace consistent with the mystery?
    - How does it impact our understanding of Baptism as a “Converting” Ordinance
    - How does it impact our understanding of Lord’s Supper as a Confirmation-Renewal Ordinance?
    - Who then should be baptized and why according to the logic of sacramentalism?
  - Who then should be admitted to the Lord’s Supper according to the logic of sacramentalism?
- Review From Baptism to Lord’s Supper
- Review “[#19 Sacraments](#)”
- Review “[Baptism Clarified](#)”  
(c.f. [A Baptism That Saves: The Reformed and Sacramental Doctrine of Baptism Argued and Clarified](#) c.f. [Study Guide A Baptism That Saves](#) )
- Review [#18 Worship](#)
  - c.f. [Covenantal Worship](#)
- Issues in Membership and Ecclesial Jurisdiction
  - [BREAK OUT] Review Church Membership Manual Part 3 and Discuss the kinds of questions that the 5 membership vows might require.

### *Supplemental Reading:*

- SKIM Preston Graham [A Spirituality of Conversion](#)) OR REVIEW (c.f. [Study Guide](#) in MA Handouts)
- Skim [Together in God’s Presence](#): A Case For Children In Worship, Preston Graham
- Read James Torrance, Worship, [Community, and the Triune God of Grace](#) Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1.
- [Bard Thompson, Liturgies of the Western Church, “The Westminster Directory”](#) (p. 345ff), “Geneva” (p. )
- Skim [Evangelistic Worship](#), Tim Keller

### *In Class Review and Handouts*

- Heb. 12:18-24
- Handout: Covenantal Worship
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## XII. The Issue of Church and Cultural Engagement 3/21/22 **IN PERSON**

### Reading Assignments

- WATCH Tim Keller-- [Challenges related to Christ and Modern Culture](#)
- READ The Atlantic- [The Evangelical Church is Breaking Apart](#)
- (READ) PG, [Centrality of the Church As A Social Strategy](#)
- SKIM Handout, [A Church Policy On Cultural Engagement Draft 2](#)

### Supplemental:

- Christianity Today-- [The Wasteland](#)

### In Class

- **Finish worship**
  - **#18**
  - [From Baptism To Lord's Supper](#)
- **The Cultural Context For Cultural Engagement**
  - Break OUT-Discuss:
  - **Tim K** – *Church Leadership in Present Cultural Context*
    - **What is the Context**
      - *Truth is Inside of You:*
        - *Feelings align with truth– NO LONGER– 1st time where truth is “in-here”-- e.g. Subjective, and then truth is aligned with Subjective examples*
        - *Problem is the myth of absolute truth– Answer– autonomous individual– everyone decide truth for himself– need to be saved from the idea of we need to be saved-*
        - *Political Rivalry– have different understanding of what reason is, what justice is, etc – can't talk– polarization*
        - *Religious and Secular polarization–*
        - *Elites vs. Low*
        - *All relationships are transactional*
        - *All social institutions are being undermined – loyalty going away*
      - **What are the Challenges in the church**
        - *Evangelism challenge– GEN z– 14% atheist– Europe coming to America (note Eastern Germany paper)*
          - *Christendom-*
            - *social benefit to going to church (cultural hegemony)*

- *Mental furniture of religious concepts (God, afterlife, Sin, moral standards, guilt- don't live up to moral standards– church leveraged this.. e.g. to give assurance, etc)*
    - *Most mission paradigms assume Christendom– no furniture, not benefits, no absolute truth– even, immoral to evangelize*
    - *Need new mission paradigm... post-Christan culture...*
      - *[PG– note 1st century missiological strategy of “suffering servant)*
  - *How to do formation challenge–e.g children, or young christians*
    - *Secularism won't admit it is a faith (set of beliefs)-- won't admit their beliefs are beliefs (the pernicious impact of social catechesis)*
      - *true to self*
      - *do what makes you happy*
      - *no one has right to tell others how to live*
      - *free to live as want as long as you are not harming people*
    - *How to inform people in a digital age*
    - *Political Polarization– both sides make idol out of individual freedom*
      - *Blue and Red Evangelicalism*
        - *Blue– race and justice*
        - *Red– Abortion and Sexuality*
      - *Church isn't driven by the Bible–*
- ***Five Things Church Needs to Accomplish***
  - *Recapture “ordinary Christians” as evangelist*
  - *Counter-Catechesis (Alan Jacobs) (ways to vaccinate believers against opposite, e.g **deconstructing** xyz doctrine as they taught) most know the narrative (note Frozen– from traditional to radical identity)*
  - *Alternate Cultural Economy (James D Hunter, “To Change the World”)*
    - *Purity from- no*
    - *Relevant to– no*
    - *Defensive against– no*
    - *Faithful Presence- YES (thoughtful, distinctly Christian, but not withdrawal)*
  - *Reclai Early Church Social Project (Larry Latado)*
    - *multi-ethnic- racial diversity*
    - *love of poor*
    - *civility- peace making– reconciliation (note– suffering servant motif– love your enemy)*
    - *pro-life*
    - *traditional sexual values*
  - *GRACE!-- Hold on to doctrine of justification*
- ***Review The Atlantic: The Evangelical Church is Breaking Apart***
  - *The aggressive, disruptive, and unforgiving mindset that characterizes so much of our politics has found a home in many American churches.*
  - *“The divisions and conflicts we found are intense, easily more intense than I have seen in my 25 years of studying the topic,” he told me. What this adds up to, he said, is “an emerging day of reckoning within churches.”*

- *The root of the discord lies in the fact that many Christians have embraced the worst aspects of our culture and our politics. When the Christian faith is politicized, churches become repositories not of grace but of grievances, places where tribal identities are reinforced, where fears are nurtured, and where aggression and nastiness are sacralized. The result is not only wounding the nation; it's having a devastating impact on the Christian faith.*
- *"What we're seeing is massive discipleship failure caused by massive catechesis failure," ... "The evangelical Church in the U.S. over the last five decades has failed to form its adherents into disciples. So there is a great hollowness. All that was needed to cause the implosion that we have seen was a sufficiently provocative stimulus. And that stimulus came."*
- *"Culture catechizes," (Alan Jacobson)... That's not a problem limited to the faithful on one side of the aisle. "This is true of both the Christian left and the Christian right," Jacobs said. "People come to believe what they are most thoroughly and intensively catechized to believe, and that catechesis comes not from the churches but from the media they consume, or rather the media that consume them. The churches have barely better than a snowball's chance in hell of shaping most people's lives."*
- *For many Christians, their politics has become more of an identity marker than their faith. They might insist that they are interpreting their politics through the prism of scripture, with the former subordinate to the latter, but in fact scripture and biblical ethics are often distorted to fit their politics.*
- *many Christians today see the world divided between us and them, the children of light and the children of darkness. Blessed are the politically powerful, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are the culture warriors, for they will be called children of God.*
- PG, [Centrality of the Church As A Social Strategy](#) **Cultural Strategy**
- SKIM Handout, [A Church Policy On Cultural Engagement Draft 2](#) **Cultural Engagement**

### **XIII. The Issue of Women Shepherd Leaders and Ordination 4/4/21 IN-PERSON**

- **Reading Assignment:**
  - (Read) [CPC Policy on Women in Ministry](#) (2004) Doesn't fully reflect CPC's current policy/strategy for women in ministry including "Women Shepherd Leaders"
  - (READ) Gordon Hugenberg, [Women in Leadership](#) An Argument For Women Elders-Complimentarian In Home, Egalitarian in Church/Society
  - (Selections) [PCA Study Report on Women in Ministry](#) Complementarian in Home and Church, But Other Forms of Women Leadership in Church including licensed women ministers (distinguished from Ordination), Session/"Elder assistance" (currently CPC's practice, etc)
- **Supplemental Reading**
  - *In Class Biblical Review:* [An Bibliography of Various Views From Evangelical Perspective](#) (Anglican Church Holy Orders Task Force)
- **Scripture Review**
  - Titus 2 ["Elder" Women Leadership](#)

#### **XIV. Ecclesial Ethics and Mercy In the Church 4/18/22**

##### *Reading Assignment*

- READ [Ecclesiology and Ethics, Richard Hayes](#) **Community**
- READ [CPC Mercy Webpage](#)
- READ [When Helping Hurts](#) (Abbreviated Summary of When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert)

##### *In Class Biblical Review and Handouts:*

- Handout: [Mercy Principles and Bibliography](#)
- PPT [Holistic Mercy and Empowerment](#)

##### *Supplemental Reading:*

*c.f. Readings noted on CPC Mercy Webpage*

#### **XIV. The Marks of a Healthy Church Holistically Reviewed, Last Things, Prayer 5/2/22 **IN PERSON****

##### *Reading Assignments:*

##### Marks of A Healthy Church

- (SKIM) MA Website: [What Kind of Churches Do We Plant](#)
- (READ) Tim Keller, [The Gospel Centered Church](#)
- (READ) Tim Keller, [The Missional Church](#)
- [Gospel Grid](#)

#### **XV. Wrap Up, Q & A, Next Steps**

- Back to Where we Started: [Call To Shepherd PPT](#)
- Q & A
- Preparations:
  - Apprenticeship
  - Exams [A Study Guide For Church Elder](#) (CPC)
  - Discern Calling PIRITUAL GIFTS– [Lesson 2: Study Guid](#)

##### Brief Review of Next Steps: Exam, Apprenticeship

1. [Study Guide to WCF \(Peter Kemeny\)](#)
2. [Exam for Teachers At CPC](#)
3. Review Beginning: [CPC Elder Training ppt](#)

- [SRoman Catholic Baptism:](#)
- [Policy on Divorce](#)
- [Racism and Racial Reconciliation](#) (CPC Webpage on Race Related Resources)
- [Gender and Sexuality](#)

### Prayer

- *John Smed, Disruptive Prayer (Chapters 1-5, 9-10)*

### *Supplemental Readings*

- Craig Higgins, (Handout) [Attributes of the Church](#)
- [Child Discipleship at CPC](#)