

Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: July 14, 2024

Sermon: What We Believe: Church Polity

Preacher: Hector

Primary Text: Ephesians 4:10-16



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Grow in love for your church and honor the role God has given you in his church.

Everything has an order. In creation, Ge1, it is God who instills order. As image-bearers, we flourish, in order. Order is important because it reveals what we believe is worthy of our time, energy, and investment. In fact, even our own personal ordering of things reveals and shows the reason for the order. In the church, God has ordered and structured roles in such a way to bring him the most glory through His gospel. In the bible we see that God established three clear roles in the church: the congregation, elders, and deacons. God, through his word, has infused each role with requirements, responsibilities, and reason.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Broadly speaking, why are roles necessary and important? What happens when people abandon or step out of their role or order? (This can be playful – a 3-year-old acting like they are the parent, or quite serious, like murder – taking God’s role of giving/taking away life)

Think about and discuss the three roles below. (with time constraints, maybe pick 1-2 to zoom in on)

- Congregation: Eph 4:10-16; Col 3:1-17; 1 Pt 1:3-16
- Elders/Pastos: Eph 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pt 5:1-4
- Deacons: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

As you look at the verses, think through:

1. What makes each role unique?
2. How do the roles relate to one another?
3. What are their requirements, responsibilities, and reasons?

Key Take-aways:

4. In what ways is this teaching ignored, opposed, or twisted in the culture “out there”?
 - In your own heart and mind, what about this teaching is difficult or confusing?
5. How does thinking about order and roles fuel your love for God and love for his church?
6. How should this study encourage you to embrace your role in the church?
7. How can this study inform your encouragement of those in other roles?