



Don't Fire Your Church Members: Elder-Led Congregationalism— MT 301

Jesus said that He would build His Church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). What a glorious promise! The King of Kings has established an indestructible, global institution to glorify His name and bring the blessing of salvation to the nations by making disciples of people from every nation, tribe, and language (Matt. 28:19; Rev. 5:9).

But did He say anything about how He is going to build the Church? What about individual local churches? How should we go about our mission? How should we be organized? Who should lead? How should they lead? Which responsibilities are delegated to the whole church, and which ones are especially for the leaders?

These may not be the kind of questions that keep you up at night, but we believe they are important for us to consider as a local church. In this class, we will be discussing what the Bible says about how a church should be governed, or what is called church “polity.” While it is certainly not a major theme, we believe the Bible has a lot to say about how churches should be organized, about who is responsible for what, and how that impacts the mission that Jesus has given to us.)

You will learn:

- ✓ What the Bible says about institutions and authority
- ✓ How the biblical covenants fit together and what that means for the church
- ✓ Who possesses the “keys of the kingdom” (Matt. 16:19; 18:18-20)
- ✓ The importance and responsibilities of church members
- ✓ The importance, qualifications, and responsibilities of elders
- ✓ And so much more!

There is no required reading for this course, but much of the material will come from the books, *Don't Fire Your Church Members* by Jonathan Leeman and *Biblical Eldership* by Alexander Strauch.

Facilitators: Pastors Keith Sova, Doug Phillips and Tim Van Loh

Room: Chapel | Cost: No cost