

The Office of the Keys vis a vis Congregational and Synodical Polity (Governance)

September 6, 2015

I. C. The Status of the believers w/r/t Christ and the holy things of God.

Mt. 23.8-12 (KJV) But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Who is the only teacher in the Church? Whom does he teach? What is the spiritual relationship of laity to their pastors?

John 10:1-5 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

Entering through the door is through the “ordinary call” of the church; what does Christ call those not entering through Christ (and his divinely appointed call)? How does the sheep judge between the voice of the true Shepherd and the stranger?

1 Cor. 3.21-23 (KJV) Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

What does the pastor have that the laity do not? Is one saved by being a servant (pastor) or a child of God? Who's called a 'child of God'; who's called a servant in Scripture? Who judges whom; the pastor his people or the people their pastor? Based upon what (John 10)?

I. D. The Office of the Holy Ministry in relation to Christ and his Church.

1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1-7 (KJV) ¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. . . ³ ¹ This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

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1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (KJV) Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. ⁴ For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

In what is Paul NOT to be judged by his people? Does this make him immune to judgement; or more greatly accountable to Christ in the judgement? Is a pastor required to be perfect in life or in doctrine?

1 Timothy 5:17-21 (NKJV) Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. ²¹ I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

How should a pastor make his living? Why must the case against a pastor be in the 'mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses? Why must his sins thus determined be rebuked publicly?