

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

September 13, 2015

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.

selection....

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?

I. E. Authority, what does this mean? Privilege, Responsibility, Accountability, Power (?), Service