

## CHURCH GOVERNMENT

NOTES:

**We are an Elder-Led Church.**

**What is an Elder?**

An Elder is the \_\_\_\_\_ for a leader in the local church.

In the New Testament the terms "elders", "pastors" and "overseers" were used synonymously.

*1 Peter 5:1-2*

**Why do we govern Stones Crossing Church this way?**

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ for church leadership given in the New Testament.

Nowhere do we see a church being led by a single elder/pastor. There is always **a plurality of elders** established to govern a local church body.

- Paul commands it - *Titus 1:5, James 5:14*

- Jerusalem church - *Acts 11:30, Acts 15:4, Acts 21:18*

- Ephesus church - *Acts 20:17, 1 Timothy 5:17*

- Other cities - *Acts 14:23*

**Elders are responsible for "the ends"**

**Staff is responsible for "the means"**

## COMPLEMENTARIANISM

### Complementary Roles of Men and Women in Ministry

*"All women and men are image bearers of God and are therefore equal before God as persons, possessing the same moral dignity and value and have equal access to God through faith in Christ. Both men and women are recipients of spiritual gifts designed to empower them for ministry in the local church and beyond. Therefore, women are to be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to utilize their gifting in ministry in service to the body of Christ and through teaching in ways that are consistent with the Word of God."*

- 1) While the two genders are different, God created men and women equal in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Both bear the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27)
  - No class of people can claim special status or privilege in the church. (Galatians 3:27-28)

*"Both husbands and wives are responsible to God for spiritual nurture and vitality in the home, but God has given to the man primary responsibility to lead his wife and family in accordance with the servant leadership and sacrificial love characterized by Jesus Christ. This principle of male leadership should not be confused with, nor give any hint of, domineering control. Rather, it is to be a loving, tender, and nurturing care of a godly man who is himself under the kind and gentle authority of Jesus Christ."*

- 2) God created men and women to have \_\_\_\_\_ roles.
  - Upon creation, God identifies woman to be the man's "ezer" (translated: helper).
  - "Ezer" is used to describe God Himself 11 times!
  - Complementary roles reflect the glory of God.

*"The elders/pastors of each local church have been granted authority under the headship of Jesus Christ to provide oversight and to teach/preach in corporate assembly for the building up of the body. Therefore, the office of elder/pastor is restricted to men."*

- 3) Stones Crossing Church recognizes that God has set apart the role of pastor/elder/overseer for certain qualified men.  
Titus 1:5-6 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7 - A pastor should be "the husband of one wife" or "a man of one woman."

The restriction that the Bible places on this office is two-fold:

NOTES:

- 1) Women are not to hold the biblical office of pastor/elder.
- 2) Women are not to publicly preach God's Word over men, which includes the administration of the sacraments.

See: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 1 Corinthians 14:33-35,  
Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Timothy 2:8-15,  
& 1 Peter 3:1-7.

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## CHURCH DISCIPLINE

**Church Discipline is a Biblical practice, modeled after the relationship we have with God, and explicitly commanded in scripture.**

(See: Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

### Purpose:

To \_\_\_\_\_ people back into right relationship  
with God and with other believers.

## The Process:

### Step 1

Matthew 18:15 - *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."*

Who: The people involved alone.

## Step 2

Matthew 18:16 - *"But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses."*

**Who:** The people involved plus one or two others who can be biblically discerning and objective.

### Step 3

Matthew 18:17a - *"If he refuses to listen to then, tell it to the church."*

Who: The people involved plus church leadership.

### Step 4

Matthew 18:17b - *"And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."*

**Who:** The people involved, church leadership, and the church membership.

**Other pertinent passages:**

Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:1-4; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1-2; Colossians 1:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Hebrews 13:17; James 5:19-20

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## SACRAMENTS

## Baptism

### What does baptism symbolize?

- 1) Cleansing of sin as an act of God's mercy.  
*Acts 22:16* - Paul uses the symbolism of washing away sins to describe baptism.
- 2) Unification with Jesus Christ.  
*Romans 6:3-11; Galatians 3:27*
- 3) Outward proclamation of faith.

### How should baptism be administered?

- 1) Baptism should be done once. *Ephesians 4:5*
- 2) Any baptized believer can baptize another under the administration of a pastor.
- 3) Stones Crossing Church does baptism by immersion based on the biblical record.

## The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- 1) Remember Christ's Death  
We are proclaiming the Lord's death... The Gospel.  
Jesus died in our place as our substitute, the innocent for the guilty. *Isaiah 53:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18*
- 2) Remember We Live By Faith  
We depend on him for life.  
*Colossians 1:16-17*  
We depend on him for salvation.  
*John 14:6, Acts 4:12*  
We depend on him for power for living godly lives.  
*2 Peter 1:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9*
- 3) Remember The New Covenant  
The Lord's Supper ushers in the New Covenant by His blood.  
*Jer 31:31-34, Ezk 36:26-27; Jn 1:16-17, Heb 8:6-13*

NOTES:

**Follow-Up Questions:**

- 1) Why do you think the gospel message is important to hear every week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What questions or concerns do you have regarding Church Discipline?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What questions or concerns do you have regarding complementarianism?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What advantages does an "elder-led" church have over another model of church government?