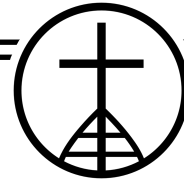


PULPIT CURRICULUM

The Marks of a Good Church: Mutual Ministry

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

April 21, 2024 – Adam Ashoff



Prayer & Praise: Praise for the time of fellowship at the Women's Tea, and that any guests who attended will be encouraged to come back again. Pray for Steve Storkel serving in Haiti.

When you think of our church as a group of people moving forward on the gospel mission, how does the internal health of our church body affect that? Why is being mission-driven outwardly and disciple-making inwardly such an important, and at times, difficult, balance to maintain?

When you think of admonition, does it have a good or bad connotation in your mind? How does knowing it is to be common, compassionate, and communal help us do it more effectively? (Cf: Col 1:28, Acts 20:31, Rom 15:14)

Does the idea of encouraging the timid expose any timidity in you? If/when you have been fainthearted in the faith, how have you seen brothers or sisters do this well? What lessons would you share in giving encouragement?

Helping the weak can wear us down, and as John Calvin said, cause "a feeling of irksomeness in trying to apply the correct cure to the different spiritual diseases our brothers & sisters suffer from." How does being "patient with all" at the end of v.14, as well as the truth of v.15, help you to navigate your own heart in mutual ministry?

When think about applying these commands and also excelling still more at discerning the categories of sheep, what seems the most challenging for you?

Mutual Ministry: Time for a 'meta' moment in Mutual Ministry. How do you think your group does in mutual ministry time at actually applying these methods of mutual ministry? Ask yourself: are you more of an admonitioner as opposed to an encourager? Where are you strongest? Where are you weakest? Does your group agree?

Even after our conversion, we still need bruising, so that reeds may know themselves to be reeds, and not oaks.

Richard Sibbes, "The Bruised Reed" (it's a great book, you should read it!)