

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 1.29.13

"JESUS LOVES HIS CHURCH" - EKKLESIA



SCRIPTURE - 1 PETER 5:1-5

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

BIG IDEA

Jesus saves his church, builds his church, loves his church, and leads his church. But how does he lead it? Jesus says that the church is like a flock of sheep, and that he is the Good Shepherd that lays down his life for the sheep. Jesus is the ultimate authority and *Head* of the church², the *Apostle* who plants a church³, the *Leader* who builds the church⁴, the *Senior Pastor* of the church⁵, and it is ultimately Jesus who closes the doors of churches when they have become faithless or fruitless⁶. Jesus is our Senior Pastor! That's good news because Jesus is sovereign and he loves us.

** ¹John 10:14-15, ²Eph 1:9, ³Heb 3:1, ⁴Matt 16:18, ⁵1 Peter 5:4, ⁶Rev 2:5

Jesus then calls¹, qualifies², and raises up³ godly men⁴ to be Pastors that love both Jesus and the church. As they follow Jesus, Pastors are to lead by feeding the flock, guiding the flock, protecting the flock from false teachings, false teachers, and false beliefs, and are ultimately the ones that are held accountable to Jesus for the health of the flock. In 1 Peter 5:1-15, the Apostle Peter tells us that Pastors are to lead *willingly*, not under compulsion; *eagerly*, not for shameful gain; *by example*, not by domineering; and finally, Pastors are to lead for Jesus, not for themselves or for the praise or reward of man. Jesus is the Pastor's rewarder and is himself the reward⁵! Pastors are to humbly lead the church to Jesus and for Jesus by the preaching and application of the Word of God, and church members are to humbly submit to and follow the leadership of their Pastors for their joy and God's great glory.

** ¹Acts 20:28, ²1 Tim 3:1-7, ³1 Peter 5:5, ⁴1 Tim 2:11-3:7, ⁵1 Peter 5:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q.1 Was there anything from *Sunday's sermon* or the *big idea* that was new to you or had an affect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?

Q.2 What stands out to the in 1 Peter 5:1-5 and why?

Q.3 Why is humility paramount in the character of a leader?

Q.4 What are the possible distorted motives for leadership?

Q.5 What is the reward for elders who lead as examples for the flock?

Q.6 What are the implications that Jesus has set up the leadership of the church?

Q.7 What does it mean for you to subject yourself to the elders? Why is this important for the health of the church? How can we clothe ourselves in humility toward one another?

*Pray for each other to be submissive and to humbly follow the lead of the Pastors that Jesus has placed over you for your joy.

Q.8 How have we failed in this and where do we need to repent? Pray for each other in light of your answers.

GOOD WORD

In all humility, let us be obedient to our Senior Pastor Jesus for our joy and for his glory. "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EKKLESIA COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

We have opened up the door for people to become Covenant Members of Ekklesia Muskogee. We invite you to get a copy of the [Ekklesia Membership Covenant](#) and the [Ekklesia Doctrinal Statement](#), read and pray over them, then arrange a meeting with a Pastor to discuss, pray, and sign the Covenant together.

LOVE MUSKOGEE BIG GIVE DAY

We are inviting each of you to take the month of January to do a little New Year purging. Go through your home and find all those things you don't *need*. Then, because Jesus loves us, let's love others by donating those items to the Love Muskogee Storehouse. We promise that we can and will find people that do *need* those items. Out of the grace you've been given, we invite you to give graciously in love.

Items we are accepting:

- any and all clothing and shoes
- non-perishable food items
- kitchen items
- any and all unused toiletry items
- blankets and towels
- baby items (diapers, wipes, formula, bottles, etc..)
- children's toys/books

LOVE MUSKOGEE UPDATE AND PRAISE REPORT

First, thank you to our Facebook friends who have shared the stories of their friends and family in need. Since joining Facebook on December 5 we have had the amazing opportunity of helping three local families and some of those families multiple times.

Second, and also because of our Facebook site and the generous giving of our neighbors, we are beginning to stock up the storehouse. Already, we have truckloads of materials to pick up and we are still 3 weeks from the *Big Give Day* (Sunday, February 3rd). Thanks everyone and keep your donations coming because we promise to put everything to use for the Kingdom of God!

The Love Muskogee Storehouse is coming along quite well. We can say confidently that within the next few months we will be ready to serve our city exclusively from it. Over the weekend a gigantic donation of