

# **First Baptist Church – Odessa**

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **“I Expect Him to Lead Me Upwards in Christ”**

### **“12 Expectations of Your Pastoral Leadership” – Pt. 9**

Ephesians 4:1-3 & Selected

*“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 11:1

### **To Lead Others Upwards in Christ...**

#### **I. I will be shackled to my Lord above all else!**

*“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord....”* Vs. 1a

*“You shall have no other gods before me.”* Exodus 20:3

#### **II. I will value properly my call to salvation!**

*“...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”* Vs. 1b

**“Church”** = *Ecclesia* – the “called-out” ones.

*“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 3:14

#### **III. I will build up Christian unity among God’s people**

##### **5 Ways to Strengthen Christian Unity in the Church:**

##### **1. By modeling true humility as a lifestyle.**

*“...with all humility.”* Vs. 2a

**2. By striving for gentleness in my dealings with others.**

*"...with all humility and gentleness." Vs. 2b*

**3. By patiently enduring whatever comes as I serve the Lord.**

*"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience." Vs. 2c*

**4. By loving my Christian family like Jesus loves me.**

*"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." Vs. 2d*

**5. By planting seeds of peace in all my relationships.**

*"...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."  
Vs. 3*

*"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."*

James 3:17-18 NLT

**To Plant "Seeds of Peace" ...**

- Honesty is essential.
- Risk is required.
- Struggle is vital.
- Rejection is possible.
- Forgiveness is crucial.