



The Kingdom Perspective

Tending the Ecclesial Farm

Hello, this is Pastor Don Willeman of Christ Redeemer Church. Welcome to The Kingdom Perspective.

We live in a day that is cynical about leaders and institutions. This is true in government, education, business, health care and the arts—but maybe especially in the church. Sadly, in some instances this cynicism is warranted due to abuses of power and position. However, the existence of such counterfeits doesn't invalidate the legitimacy of the real thing. A counterfeit \$20 dollar bill does nothing to invalidate the legitimacy of a real \$20 dollar bill.

Therefore, certainly, it is necessary to be shrewd in one's engagement with any given church. We must be discerning, seeking a congregation preaching the *historic gospel* and operating according to the *manner of Jesus Christ*. A church that's not addicted to the latest and greatest, but a church rooted in and faithful to the doctrine and practice of the apostolic church. We should be wary of leaders marked by power trips but seeking and commending leaders marked by the patient service and care of God's people (Mark 10:43-45; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Now, once we find such a church, we need to link ourselves to the communion and discipline of that local body. Admittedly, this can be difficult for many of us who have been burned by bad churches and bad shepherds. However, it doesn't relieve us from the responsibility of seeking to do so. Rather, we must trust God and carefully take it one step at a time. Although God's church is not perfect, it is being perfected, and we along with it.

Something to think about from The Kingdom Perspective.

"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: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

~1 Peter 5:1-7 (ESV)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

~Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

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