3-3-2012, COTR Texarkana
Title: Spiritual Covering
Purpose: Provoke people to submit themselves to the spiritual covering of a local church.
Spiritual Truth: Everybody needs a spiritual covering.
Text: Acts 13:1-3
Topic: Spiritual Covering, Laying on of Hands, Ministry, Church Planting

Spiritual Covering

I. Introduction

A. Why did we take the time to publicly commission the Humphrey's to start this new church?

1. Because part of the vision of this church is to (An Inside Look, page 15, #5) Train, ordain and send out 100 full time ministers of the Gospel who become pastors, prophets, apostles, evangelists, teachers, missionaries and leaders in the marketplace.
2. He asked to be under the spiritual covering of this church and be sent out.
   a. There's a right way and a wrong way to start a ministry.
   b. Most churches start because somebody got offended, couldn't get along or were rebellious. God has a better way. When believers are submitted and accountable to proven, God ordained spiritual authority great things happen.

B. New Testament pattern for starting a spiritual ministry

1. Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)
   [1] Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers…[2] While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." [3] Then after fasting and praying **they laid their hands on them and sent them off.**
2. Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV)
   [1] Therefore let us leave the **elementary teachings about Christ** and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of…**the laying on of hands…**
   a. Spiritual purposes for the "laying on of hands": Impart blessing, spiritual transference of sin, physical healing, infilling of the Holy Spirit and to raise the dead. There is another reason: when a spiritual covering recognizes God's call upon a ministry, blesses the leader and commissions them for divine service.

C. Title: Spiritual Covering

D. Purpose: Provoke people to submit themselves to the spiritual covering of a local church.

E. Spiritual Truth: Everybody needs a spiritual covering.

II. The spiritual covering of COTR will "watch over your soul"

A. Hebrews 13:17 (NCV)

[17] Obey your leaders and act under their authority. **They are watching over you, because they are responsible for your souls.** Obey them so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help you to make their work hard.

1. One of the greatest advantages of being a member of a local church is the "spiritual covering" it provides.
2. Spiritual covering isn't about authoritarian permission givers but about godly counsel, confirmation and correction by godly leaders.
3. "Church" is more than a place to go on Sunday. It's a place to provide spiritual covering and care for people as we reach the world for Christ.

B. A prayer covering

1. Romans 1:9 (NLT)
   [9] God knows how often I pray for you. **Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God…**
2. Text this week Kim's daughter and Steve's daughter

C. Spiritual counsel for big decisions

1. Proverbs 20:18 (The Message)
   [18] **Form your purpose by asking for counsel, then carry it out using all the help you can get**.
2. Psalm 37:30-31 (NLT)
   [30] **The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong**. [31] They have made God's law their own, so they will never slip from his path.
3. I wouldn't make a big decision without counsel from an elder or pastor.

D. Protection from deception and false teaching

1. Acts 20:28-30 (NIV)
   [28] Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God…[29] I know that after I leave, **savage wolves will come in** among you and will not spare the flock. [30] Even from your own number **men will arise and distort the truth** in order to draw away disciples after them.

E. Correction when you get on the wrong path

1. Titus 2:15 (NLT)
   [15] You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. **You have the authority to correct them when necessary**, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.

III. Conclusion: Partnership in ministry

A. Philippians 1:3-5 (NLT)

[3] Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God…[5] for **you have been my partners in spreading the Good News** about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

1. God has something for all of us to do to expand his Kingdom. We can do more together tan we could ever do by ourselves.

IV. Response

A. Are you under the spiritual covering of a local church? Do you feel God may be leading you to become a part of COTR?

B. Prayer/ Souls