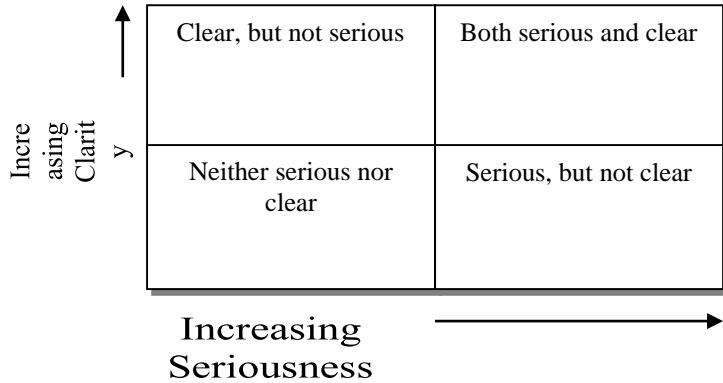


### III. What do we do when we disagree?



1. *Clear, but not serious* – e.g., Purple building exterior
2. *Neither serious nor clear* – e.g., Brand of photocopier
3. *Serious, but not clear* – e.g., Elder nomination.

This is where the elders serve the church the most. What can we do to facilitate the work of the elders in this category?

- Bring information to the elders
- When you disagree, give yourself opportunity to be persuaded by their reasoning.
- If you still disagree, trust in God that He is working through the elders for the members' good
- Be careful in conversation with others

4. *Serious and clear* -- Issues of discipline and doctrine: time for the church to act.

How does the congregation do that in a God-honoring way?

- Don't participate in secret campaigning
- Seek Godly counsel
- Protect the reputation of Christ in his church

**Questions? E-mail**

## Core Seminars—Living as a Church

### Class 8: Church Leadership: Submission for the Sake of Unity



#### I. Introduction

Purpose of Class:

- To consider how we can relate to our leaders in ways which promote unity and bring glory to God.

“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

On the other hand, the congregation is to be the final authority on important matters such as discipline and doctrine.

## II. Make their work a joy and not a burden

*Six ways to make our leaders' work a joy:*

### 1. Believe in Jesus Christ and walk in obedience.

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” – III John 4

### 2. Cultivate and preserve unity in the body.

“. . . complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” Phil. 2:2.

*How can we function as “shock absorbers?”*

- Act in love toward others. I Pet. 4:8
- Remember that opinions are temporary but people are eternal
- Encourage others to trust church leaders

### 3. Pray for church leaders

“On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.” II Corinthians 1:10-11.

### 4. Express your love for church leaders

II Corinthians 7:5-7

### 5. Seek their counsel and accept their reproof

To do this successfully, leaders must know our lives

“Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.” Proverbs 9:8.

### 6. Believe the best about their character and decisions

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” I Thess. 5:12-13.

- We must discipline ourselves to trust our church leaders and not to presume their motives.
- Constructive criticism should be carried out in a Godly way. “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” Proverbs 25:11