

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRADENTON

Timothy Manual

Elder Candidacy

Introduction

Dear Elder Candidate,

This is an Elder Candidate Manual. It serves to communicate the qualifications, function, and form for the biblical position of elder, as well as the training process of an elder candidate.

Maybe you have an inner desire for spiritual leadership. Maybe another spiritual leader or fellow church member has seen strong character qualities in your life, and they encouraged you to consider if God is calling you to the position of elder within the church. The Bible says, "If a man desires the position of bishop (elder), he desires a good work" (1 Tim 3:1 NKJV). To desire the position of elder is a good thing and may indicate that God is indeed calling you to this "good work." However, it is also a very weighty calling; to bear great responsibility in practical and spiritual leadership of the Church.

It is my earnest prayer that God would manifest His calling and raise up godly men to lead His Church. This manual is intended to guide in the process of discerning God's calling in your life and help you understand how to respond and fulfill that call.

May the Lord bless you and guide you as you pursue this discipleship process as a potential elder candidate.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Luke (Lead Elder)

Introduction

A WARNING

Spiritual leadership may seem glamorous on Sunday mornings as God's people gather with excitement in worship and eagerness to hear God's Word. However, serving the Church as an elder will expose you to the most difficult and "ugly" side of ministering to people and their problems. Most people only see what elders do on Sunday mornings and even joke about how pastors (elders) only work for a couple of hours a week (the delivery of the Sunday sermon). The reality is that an elder's job is constant and requires a calling from God, training, experience, and teamwork, to achieve a healthy rhythm of life and ministry. It's a healthy rhythm, balancing many biblical principles, that produces a long-term, faithful, and fruitful ministry. Serving as an elder is not easy but it is spiritually rewarding to live a life of obedient service, leading the Church to follow the Lord.

The Role of an Elder

WHAT ELDERS DO

This section is an overview of how our team of elders leads our church family.

The two primary roles of elders at First Baptist Bradenton are **MINISTRY** and **MANAGEMENT**. There are several subheadings to give you a good idea as to what we mean by these two roles.

MINISTRY is everything we do to reach, teach, shepherd, and disciple people.

MANAGEMENT is the organization behind our ministry attempts. We strive to organize our ministry efforts to focus on effectiveness as well as efficiency. Effectiveness is always the goal; efficiency enhances our effectiveness. Management also evaluates how our church operates in relation to federal and local laws, as a 501c3 non-profit organization.

JESUS



ELDERS



Ministry

SUNDAYS

Deacons
Volunteers

PASTORAL

Members
Visitors
Attenders

OUTREACH

Events
Service Projects
Missions

DISCIPLESHIP

Small Groups
Leadership Training



Management

ADMINISTRATION

Financial
Office Management
Property Development
Marketing/Branding

MAINTENANCE

Asset inventory & Management

SYSTEMS

Overall Sustainability
Parking
Communication
Indoor Traffic
Assimilation
Hospitality
Calendar Planning

The Role of an Elder

CLASSIFYING YOUR STRENGTH

We see the role of elder being fulfilled in three categories: teacher, shepherd, and administrator. In the Old Testament these positions were prophet, priest, and king. In the New Testament, we see Jesus fulfilling all the roles of spiritual leadership.

It is important to identify the primary area of giftedness for each elder in order for there to be balanced and complementary leadership within the Elder Team.

Teacher

Jesus was the perfect balance of grace and truth, always speaking in love, and always speaking the truth. (This was the O.T. role of the prophet.) The teacher is primarily concerned with truth. Teachers spend hours studying to understand God's Word so that they can confidently preach, teach, and disciple God's people. Teachers keep the Church sound in doctrine.

Shepherd

Jesus cared about people and was filled with compassion for them. He often wept over cities and groups of unbelieving people. Jesus was concerned with the spiritual condition of the people. (This was the O.T. role of the priest.) Shepherds focus on people. A shepherd can be patient with a person's biblical ignorance while ministering to them on an emotional, practical, and physical level.

Administrator

Jesus rules and governs all things. (This is the O.T. role of the king.) Administrators focus on systems and organization. They make things work. They manage people, resources, and time. A good administrator is constantly building workable and sustainable systems that control many complex moving parts. They help the Church work effectively and efficiently.

TEACHER

Preaching
Teaching
Discipleship

SHEPHERD

Counseling
Visitation
Hospitality

ADMINISTRATOR

Budgets
Management
Systems

The Role of an Elder

MAKING DECISIONS

As a team of spiritual leaders, elders make decisions that affect every member of First Baptist Bradenton. Some decisions are simple and can be made quickly. Others are extremely difficult and become great burdens we carry until consensus can be reached. Whether simple or complex, every decision we make directly affects our future as a church; therefore, every decision is important.

We make all major decisions together. We are all steering this ship. If we steer straight with Jesus as the wind in our sails, then we celebrate together. If we hit the rocks, then we die together trying to save those on board. This is your commitment as an elder. An elder cannot come in and make bad decisions and then bail leaving others to try and salvage what they can. Every decision we make must be backed with integrity of commitment to our calling as an elder.

When we do make poor decisions (and, unfortunately, we will), we must learn from our failures so we do not replicate them in our future decision-making process. Failure is not the end but a tutor that propels us forward, more informed and experienced.

MUTUAL SUBMISSION

Many issues will be raised in elder meetings that everyone simply will not agree with. Mutual submission is key to effective and productive meetings while maintaining Christ-like love and grace for all the brothers.

We will make decisions based on a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all elders in attendance (with significant decisions requiring every elder to vote). When an issue is up for discussion, we communicate openly and honestly. When the vote is taken and the decision is made based on the consensus of the group, that decision is carried out by all the elders (even those who disagreed with the motion). There are no winners or losers, only decisions made that we hope glorify Jesus despite what we think personally of them.

Some decisions are to be tabled and given more time for consideration through prayer and counseling.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

1. Elders and pastors

Elder and pastor are both synonyms describing the same office in scripture. Some believe that elders are appointed to make decisions yet never lift a finger. This is an erroneous view. Elders are appointed to bring accountability and much needed help to lead the Church. Elders don't make decisions and then expect the staff pastors to go and implement them. The elders are active in implementation; not only leading through spiritual decisions, but also engaging in active service alongside our staff pastors and directors.

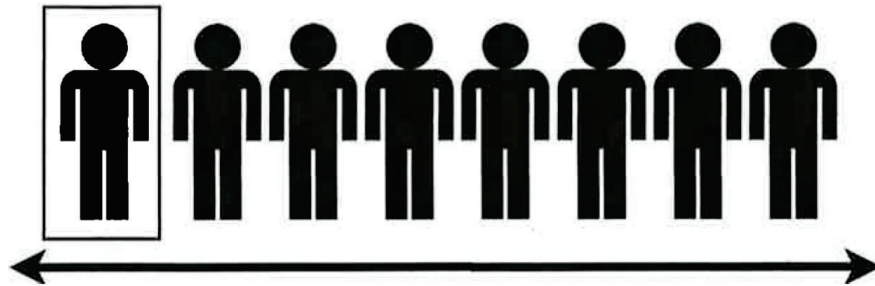
2. Elders should sit on stage and be constantly honored at all opportunities

Elders lead like Jesus, through humble servanthood. We set the example by not seeking to honor ourselves, but instead work hard to show our dedication to Jesus as an example to the Church. There is no room for pride in leading the Lord's Church. There are appropriate times the Church will show appreciation for an individual elder or elder team. This is an opportunity to receive the compliment or recognition with humility, always ultimately pointing people to the Lord.

Relationship to Lead Pastor

FIRST AMONG EQUALS

In order to avoid confusion, we need to discuss the role of the lead pastor as he relates to other elders. This graph will help visually explain.



ELDERS

As you can see, all elders exist and function on a level plane of equality. While some may offer more talent and skill than others, they are all equal in their roles. This includes the lead pastor who is one among equals. Like King Arthur and his knights, no one sits at the head of the table. Instead, they sit at a round table looking directly into each other's faces showing equality among them. Yet, despite this equality, Arthur has the responsibility of directing the conversation and vision of the group. Every team needs a leader, and it is the responsibility of the lead pastor to LEAD. Scripture echoes this concept in a number of situations: James is the lead pastor in Jerusalem, Timothy in Ephesus, and Titus in Crete. This role is most clearly seen in scripture through the life of the Apostle Peter.

Peter's name appears first in every list of apostles in the N.T. (Acts 1:13; Mt 10:2; Lk 6:13; Mk 3:14)

Described as first (Mt 10:2)

First disciple called by Jesus (Mk 1:16-18) Peter is First identified apostle (Mk 3:14, 16)

Jesus clearly speaks to Peter over James and John (Lk 5:7,10)

Recognized leader of the apostles (Mk 1:26; Lk 22:32; Acts 1:15)

First apostle to witness the resurrection (Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5)

First apostle to recognize Jesus as the Messiah (Mt 16: 13-17)

First to preach the gospel Acts 2:14; 3:12)

Continual spokesman for the apostles (Acts 15:7)

First to visit the gentiles (Acts 10)

Most dominant figure in the Gospels and Acts (189 appearances, John second with 50, James with 18)

Relationship to Lead Pastor

LIMITATIONS OF THE LEAD PASTOR

Before we go further, we must understand the necessity for elders to be in a relationship with a lead pastor. Again, we go to the life of Peter:

- Refers to himself as a "fellow elder" (1Peter 5:1)
- Makes a hypocritical mistake that deserves a rebuke by a fellow elder (Gal 2:11-14)
- Has seriously bad ideas that glorify Satan instead of Jesus (Mt 16;21-23)
- Denies Jesus (Mt 26:69-775)
- Proudly refuses Jesus' cleansing him (Jn 16:8)
- Sleeps through prayer time (Mt 26:43)
- Gets ahead of Jesus (Jn 18:10)
- Distracted by supernatural occurrences (Mt 17:1-5)
- Takes his eyes off Jesus and begins to sink (Mt 14:30)
- Quits ministry and returned to fishing (Jn 21:3)

As you can see, Peter makes mistakes on several occasions. This is why he and all lead pastors need the fellowship, wisdom, and accountability of men who love Jesus and His Church. Lead pastors can have blind spots and bad ideas. They are prone to sin. It's the Elder Team's responsibility to cover the blind spots, fill the holes, and protect the Church from sin and error and to lead First Baptist Bradenton in a way that honors Jesus.

While the first among equals may reserve the right to set the agenda and lead with vision, the lead pastor should not make decisions concerning the well-being of the Church by himself. This is why elders were appointed in every church in the New Testament (Titus 1:5). Several men make better decisions than one man. There is accountability in numbers. Also, there is protection from disgruntled people when elders make every decision corporately instead of individually. Motives are purified when our decisions are made in front of the eyes of others. The elders of First Baptist Bradenton make decisions together and all elders submit to the decisions of the group (even the lead pastor) whether they like them or not.

Each elder has an equal responsibility in determining the direction of First Baptist Bradenton and the ministry impact we have on this city. This should encourage diligence in addressing every issue so that the elders steward well their individual and collective responsibility of leadership.

First Baptist Bradenton Ethos

ETHOS DEFINED

Merrimack-Webster defines ETHOS as the distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature, or guiding beliefs of a person, group, or institution. Simply put, it's the culture we are building and protecting at First Baptist Bradenton.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

At First Baptist Bradenton, LOVE FIRST isn't just a slogan, it's our culture, the prevailing attitude that undergirds our thoughts and actions. God loved us first by sending His son to be our savior. As His children, we want to love first in everything we do. People come here and sense something special, inviting, and loving. They may or may not realize that what they are feeling is the presence of the Holy Spirit and His love working in and through our people. We must be diligent to continue to build and protect a God-honoring culture to love first.

OUR ETHOS

We strive to **LOVE FIRST** in all we think, say, and do and create and protect our atmosphere of love. We live out our mission to GROW, BUILD, REACH, and GIVE.

GROW - our upward relationship with God.

BUILD - our inward relationship with each other.

REACH - outward in love to our neighbors and community.

GIVE - extravagantly of ourselves to Jesus, His Church, and His mission.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

We all have our "soap-box" issues – the hot buttons that we feel most passionate about. As an elder at First Baptist Bradenton, you can never use your office to push your agenda. All our decisions must be in the best interests of the entire Church and not just a special interest group within the Church that you feel you need to represent.

Thinking Theologically

THEOLOGICAL UNITY

As a church we have quite a diversity of people coming to us from a plethora of different faith backgrounds. Among the diverse masses, we cannot focus on the many things that could possibly divide us. Instead, we focus primarily on what unites us. This allows people of all walks of life to gather, heed God's Word preached, worship, and grow in their faith. However, as people grow into membership and higher leadership positions, the need for stronger theological unity becomes much more apparent. Elders at First Baptist Bradenton must all agree and be able to defend several major theological positions. We call these our closed-hand positions: meaning, they are not up for debate. In this way, you will be able to teach scripture and disciple people with confidence and soundness. We cannot have elders teaching inconsistent doctrine to the people God has entrusted to us.

THE CLOSED HAND

We base our close-handed positions on historic, orthodox, Christian teaching. We affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and our church's statement of faith. Each elder of our church must be in agreement with these documents and the theological positions contained therein.

THE OPEN HAND

Some things in the Bible are black and white. Some things are not. We choose to put the gray areas into our "open hand." This way we can be a unified church in Jesus all moving forward in the main mission and still allow individual believers to hold to their personal convictions concerning speculative ideologies. You may have strong opinions about some of these issues, and it's okay, as long as you don't try to make your strong opinions a litmus test for true Christianity. A few examples include the following:

- Pre-tribulation eschatology vs. Post-tribulation eschatology
- Prohibition vs. Moderation
- Old earth vs. Young earth
- State-sponsored school vs. Home/private school
- Working moms vs. Stay-at-home moms
- R-rated movies vs. G-rated movies
- Secular music vs. Christian music
- Secular space vs. Sacred space
- Modern styles/methods of ministry vs. Traditional styles/methods of ministry
- Republicans vs. Democrats

Sadly, many churches make the above issues imperative and draw lines in the sand that the scriptures simply don't draw. They cause division where division shouldn't be. It has been said that all Christian churches in America believe 90% of the same thing. Yet, they choose to focus and divide over the 10% that the Bible is unclear about. At First Baptist Bradenton, we rally around and fight for the 90% and let individuals figure out the 10% as best they can as they love and follow Jesus.

An Elder's Family

MINISTRY AND THE FAMILY

The responsibility of ministry and serving people with endless needs can take a toll on an elder and on his marriage and family life. God hasn't called elders to separate their personal life from their ministry (professional) life WITH God's people as a shepherd. The constant need can create a constant demand on an elder and, over time, both weigh him down physically and spiritually as well as pull him away from his primary call as a Christian, husband, and father.

It is vital that elders practice healthy life rhythms, caring for their own physical, spiritual, and emotional well being and tending to the same in their marriage and family.

Elder Policies

TERM OF AN ELDER

Scripture gives no specific length of time that an elder serves. At First Baptist Bradenton we will allow elders to serve as long as they are productive in our mission to glorify Jesus. Each year we will have an elder review and give elders an opportunity to commit for another year or step down for a sabbath. Also, if an elder were not able to manage the Church well, he would be asked to resign at this annual review.

EXPECTATIONS

An elder should plan on spending an average of 5 to 10 hours per week on church-related business. They are expected to attend church regularly, serve where needed, give generously, attend a monthly elders meeting (sometimes two depending on seasonal demand), and teach membership classes. Also, Sunday morning pulpit ministry is occasionally expected. Additionally, an elder retreat occurs one weekend a year.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLINE

If an elder struggles with sin that becomes habitual or has given himself to doctrine that is not sound according to our closed hand, then the following actions will be taken:

If the elder is repentant and submissive,

1. the elders will pray earnestly for the brother.
2. the elders will decide on a path of restoration for the brother. This may or may not include the fallen elder stepping down for a season while he works through his sin.

If the elder is unrepentant (the elders will decide between repentance and defiance),

1. he will be brought on trial before the elders.
2. upon guilty verdict, he will be removed from eldership.
3. depending on seriousness, the guilty may be expunged from the Church.

If an elder's sin is private, then the restoration or trial actions will be a private matter. If an elder's sin is public, then the church will have to deal publicly with him. No elder is exempt from accountability and discipline – not even the lead elder. In trial, verdicts will be established based on majority vote of the elders (with the exception of the elder on trial).

Elder Policies

ELDER ORDINATION PROCESS

- Complete the Timothy Manual (the twelve-month elder candidate training program)
- Demonstrate evidence of God's calling to serve as an elder (from personal perspective and affirmation/observation of others)
- Current Elder Team will assemble an ordination council to
 - * Conduct an elder candidate interview and questioning
 - * Make a written recommendation to our church membership for ordination of the candidate
- Present elder candidate at a business meeting for church membership vote of affirmation for ordination and appointment to church Elder Team
- The church holds a public ordination service for the candidate
- The newly ordained elder begins serving on the Elder Team

Assignments and Expectations

TIMELINE

If an elder candidate has read through this manual, prayed with his spouse about his continued involvement, and completes the committal form found on the next page, while also reading through *Elders and Leaders* by Gene Getz, then the following year long process may begin.

First and second months

- Read *The Measure of a Man* by Gene Getz
- Meet monthly with your mentor
- Fulfill and journal church-related activities, including Sunday morning responsibilities

Third and fourth months

- Read *The Plurality Principle* by Dave Harvey
- Meet monthly with your mentor
- Fulfill and journal church-related activities, including Sunday morning responsibilities

Fifth and sixth months

- Read *A Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel
- Meet monthly with your mentor
- Fulfill and journal church-related activities, including Sunday morning responsibilities

Seventh and eighth months

- Read *God, Marriage, and Family* by Andreas Kostenberger
- Meet monthly with your mentor
- Fulfill and journal church-related activities, including Sunday morning responsibilities

Ninth and tenth months

- Read *Simple Church* by Thomas Ranier
- Meet monthly with your mentor
- Fulfill and journal church-related activities, including Sunday morning responsibilities

Eleventh and twelfth months

- Read *Radical Together* by David Platt
- Meet monthly with your mentor
- Fulfill and journal church-related activities, including Sunday morning responsibilities

DISCLAIMER: Completing this year-long program does not mean that you will automatically become an elder at First Baptist Bradenton. Elders will be chosen as the Lord leads, through needs of the Church, by recommendation of the Elder Team, and affirmation of the church body. Whether elected to the Elder Team or not, there will be additional opportunity for continuing education and discipleship.

Credits: We are extremely grateful, and so we express our thanks to Pastor Brent Stephens, Campus Pastor and Lead Elder at Four Points Church in Acworth, GA. His document, "The Titus Manual," served as an invaluable example and guide for our own "Timothy Manual."

Committal Agreement

MY COMMITMENT

I have read and fully understand this elder candidacy manual of First Baptist Bradenton. It is my desire to continue my pursuit of eldership within this church. I commit to this training process and will complete it with diligence and integrity. I make this commitment to Jesus and my church family of First Baptist Bradenton.

I believe my primary leadership classification is

TEACHER
(Truth)

SHEPHERD
(People)

ADMINISTRATOR
(Systems)

Candidate signature

First Baptist Church of Bradenton

PASTOR/ELDER QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL THEOLOGY:

1. Who have been your primary theological teachers, or influencers? In other words (apart from the Bible), what authors, theologians, movements, denominations, or schools of thought have most influenced your theology?
2. Outside the Bible, what is the most theologically intensive book you have read cover-to-cover?
3. What is the gospel?
4. Please give your view of the scriptures.
5. Briefly describe your philosophy of ministry and evangelism.
6. What is our role in saving the lost, and what is God's role?
7. In your own words, how do you understand the doctrine of predestination and what view do you personally hold on this doctrine?
8. What is your view of Creation? How do you go about explaining the Imago Dei?
9. How did Adam's sin affected the nature of all of mankind?
10. What is the role of the church? Support the role of the church scripturally as well as define how the church is different from an organization.
11. Briefly describe your view of local church government, including the offices, who can/ should hold them, and who has final authority for decision making.
12. What is your eschatological position?

PASTORAL THEOLOGY:

1. How would you respond to a couple that just miscarried 9 weeks into pregnancy? What scriptures would you share with them?
2. Some college kid comes to you wanting to know who God is and has a vague idea of this thing called the "Trinity." Please explain how you would go about talking to this person about God and the Trinity.
3. In a follow up, the college kid brings in a couple of friends and wants to talk more in depth about who Jesus is. How would you talk with these seekers of truth about Jesus Christ?
4. You are counseling a couple who claims to be Christian, but they are fornicating and believe it is okay because "they are married in their hearts." They want to become members of the church. How would you handle this couple?
5. Another married couple whom you are counseling doesn't know if they are truly saved. How would you go about finding out their current understanding of salvation and explaining how we can be assured of our position in Christ?
6. A young man confides to you on Sunday morning that he is addicted to pornography. How would you on the spot counsel this young man?
7. Small group discussion is getting heavy tonight. The group wants to know what the role of prayer is in the Christian life in regards to the sovereignty of God. How do you answer them?
8. A crying woman at church is heavily convicted of sin and approaches you for prayer. She confesses to believing in Jesus, but still feels so dirty. How do you explain expiation to her?
9. The same woman from the previous question is continuing to wrestle with her sin week after week. How do you explain the process of sanctification to her?

BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE:

OLD TESTAMENT QUESTIONS:

1. On a separate sheet, write out all the books of the Bible in order.
2. Who wrote the first five books of the Bible and why?
3. Who did God create in His image?
4. What was the first sin?
5. What did God do for Adam and Eve after they had committed their sin?
6. What was the covenant sign that God made with Noah after He came out of the ark?
7. What was the covenant sign with Abraham in Genesis 17?
8. Why was the city of Sodom destroyed?
9. Read Genesis 50:19. What does this very tell us about sin and about suffering (especially God's involvement in working with the two)?
10. Who was the first high priest appointed?
11. What was the provision God made for the hungry Israelites in the wilderness?
12. Write out the Ten Commandments in order.
13. Before the last plague was wrought on Egypt, what "everlasting ordinance" did God instruct Moses to do?
14. What two books of the Bible are the Ten Commandments written in?
15. What were the three sections of the tabernacle?
16. Which of the following did not belong in the tabernacle? The ark, altar of incense, gold lamp stand, golden scepter, or bronze laver.
17. What did the ark of the covenant contain?
18. What is the theme of Leviticus in one word?
19. On the day of atonement, who was affected by the sacrifice? The Israelites alone, the whole world, all the people in the camp, all the people outside the camp, or just the high priest.
20. Who is Korah?
21. Who is the appointed successor of Moses?
22. Did Moses ever get into the promised land of Canaan?
23. Read Deut. 7:6. What do you think this means?
24. What is the theme of Joshua?
25. Name the two bodies of water that God parted?
26. What was the first city to be destroyed by Joshua's army? How did they do it?
27. What covenant did Joshua renew with the Israelites and why?
28. Name four judges from the book of Judges.
29. Read Judges 9:23. How does this change your perception of God - or does it?
30. Why is the book of Ruth important?
31. What nationality was Ruth?
32. Why is Ruth herself important?
33. Who is Hannah?
34. What does the name Ichabod mean, and why is he important?
35. Who was the first king of Israel?
36. What king was deemed "a man after God's own heart?"
37. What sin did this king commit? Why? And at who's expense?
38. Who was this same king's prophet?
39. Who was struck dead because he touched the ark of the covenant?
40. Who succeeded David as king?
41. Read 1 Kings 8:53. What does this mean?
42. What great prophet is introduced in 1 Kings 17?
43. What crooked husband and wife team did battle against this prophet?

44. What happened with this prophet on Mt. Carmel?
45. How did this prophet die?
46. Who was his successor?
47. Who is Micaiah?
48. Read 1 Kings 22:19-23. How does this affect your view of God?
49. Who is Namaan and what prophet ministered to him?
50. Name three kings who did great reforms in the book of 2 Kings.
51. Who was the most evil king who reigned the longest?
52. What king was king of prayer?
53. Why did God exile Judah and when?
54. I Chronicles records "what" for us?
55. What did Solomon ask for as a gift from God?
56. Who built the first temple?
57. What is religious syncretism?
58. How many of the following kingdoms did God use to exile the Israelites? Circle all that apply... Babylon, Persia, Egypt, Chaldea, Judah, Rome.
59. During what young king's reign was the book of the law found?
60. What godly scribe has a book of the Bible named after him?
61. King _____ was moved by God to have the temple rebuilt.
62. Who was king Artaxerxes? Why is he important?
63. In the book of Ezra, what sin is dealt with in the last two chapters, and why is it a great sin?
64. Who was appointed to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem?
65. What book of the OT does not mention God's name at all?
66. Why is the book of Esther important?
67. Who are the four main characters in the book of Esther?
68. What is the feast of Purim?
69. Who was Job's adversary?
70. What were the names of Job's comforters?
71. Were these men comforters?
72. What sufferings did Job endure and why?
73. Read Job 13:15. How does this verse help people deal with trials?
74. Did Job know he would ultimately be saved when he died? Why or why not?
75. Read Job 21:30. What does it mean?
76. Who offered the best comfort to Job (besides God) in the book?
77. Read Job 42:2. What does this say about the will of God?
78. How many Psalms are there?
79. How can the Psalms, which are men's prayers and songs to God, be God's Word to us?
80. What is a Psalm of ascent?
81. Give two examples of lamenting psalms?
82. What is an imprecatory psalm?
83. What are three examples of prophetic Psalms concerning the Messiah?
84. Read Psalm 10:4. What is this saying?
85. Circle any of the following terms you are familiar with: inverted parallelism, acrostic, hallel psalm, antithetical parallelism, synonymous parallelism, selah.
86. Read Psalm 51:5. What is being expressed here?
87. Read Psalm 65:4. What is being expressed here?
88. What is your favorite Psalm and why?
89. Read Psalm 104:34. What does "meditate" mean?
90. Read Psalm 148:6. What is a decree?
91. What five books of the Bible are considered "Hebrew poetry?"
92. Proverbs personifies something as very important. What?
93. What is the beginning of wisdom?
94. Read Proverbs 9:9. What is being expressed here?
95. What is the long Psalm?

96. What do the Psalms tell us concerning using instruments in worship?
97. Read Proverbs 16:4. What is being expressed here?
98. Read Proverbs 21:2. What is being expressed here?
99. Quote your favorite Proverb:
100. What is the theme of the book of Ecclesiastes?
101. Who wrote Ecclesiastes?
102. What is the key verse to the book of Ecclesiastes?
103. What is the best description of the Song of Songs? A love song between a husband and wife, love between Christ and the church, love between a king and his subjects, love between God and creation, love between a horse and his master.
104. Which prophet saw the Lord “high and lofty” and “seated on a throne?”
105. Read Isaiah 66:2. What is being expressed here?
106. Read Jeremiah 1:5. What is being expressed here?
107. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. What is being expressed here?
108. Where was Jeremiah when he prophesied?
109. Name three symbols, or object lessons, used by God for Jeremiah’s understanding a certain judgment or blessing.
110. Read Jeremiah 13:3 and 17:9. What is being expressed here?
111. Was Jeremiah popular? Why or why not?
112. What chapter is the prophecy of the branch of righteousness found in Jeremiah?
113. Read Jeremiah 31:15. What is the NT prophecy which is fulfilled in this verse?
114. In Jeremiah chapter _____, the New Covenant is spoken of.
115. Where is the law written in the New Covenant?
116. Jeremiah was never placed in a dungeon, but just in a cistern. True or False?
117. Nediah was Jeremiah’s scribe. True or False?
118. Where do we find this verse? “Through the Lords mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness.”
119. What is going on in Ezekiel chapter 1?
120. Read Ezekiel 34:1-16. What is being expressed here?
121. What is the message behind the valley of dry bones?
122. The last 8 chapters of Ezekiel deal with what?
123. What king captured the Israelites during the time of Daniel?
124. What five kingdoms did Daniel prophesy about?
125. Which is the greatest kingdom of the five?
126. Who was Nebuchadnezzar’s son and why is he important?
127. Daniel was thrown into the lions den and the fiery furnace. True or False?
128. Who were the friends of Daniel?
129. Who is seen in Daniel’s vision of chapter 7?
130. What was the messenger’s name God sent to Daniel after 22 days of prayer?
131. What prophet was instructed to marry a harlot?
132. Read Hosea 6:6. What is being expressed here?
133. What “army” does Joel prophesy about?
134. What well known prophecy is contained in Joel 2?
135. What was Amos’ occupation?
136. Read Amos 3:2. What is being expressed here?
137. What, to who who and why did Obadiah prophesy?
138. How long was Jonah in the belly of the great fish?
139. Many people think Jonah was just a fairy tale. Read 2 Kings 14:25. Why does this help us?
140. Who did Jonah prophesy against?
141. How does the book of Jonah end? Why?
142. Who was a contemporary prophet of Micah? Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Ezekiel?
143. What is contained in Micah 5?
144. Who did Nahum prophesy against?

145. In what OT book is the quote, "The just shall live by faith?"
146. Zephaniah prophesied about many countries. Which country was he most concerned about?
147. Which governor of Judah did Haggai record, "I will take you, _____." My servant, the son of Shealtiel, says the Lord, and will make you a signet ring; for I have chosen you says the Lord.?"
148. Who had a vision of the High Priest being ridiculed by Satan?
149. In what OT book is this quote: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord?"
150. Malachi chapter 3 prophesies about John the Baptist. True or False?
151. Where are people robbing God in the book of Malachi?

NEW TESTAMENT QUESTIONS:

1. Name 5 of the 9 characters in the birth narratives of Christ?
2. How many Magi were there?
3. What was Jesus' hometown?
4. Why did John baptize Jesus?
5. Where did Jesus get his human nature?
6. Who forced Jesus to go into the wilderness to be tempted?
7. What book and chapters do we find the Sermon on the Mount?
8. How many beatitudes are there?
9. What gentile did Jesus become amazed at, because he had more faith than Israel?
10. Who are the 12 disciples?
11. What three disciples made the inner-core?
12. What disciple was the "one whom Jesus loved?"
13. What two groups viciously opposed Jesus?
14. Read Matthew 21:22. Is this true, why or why not?
15. Read Matthew 10:34. What is being expressed here?
16. Read Matthew 13:11-15. How does this affect the universality of the Gospel?
17. Jesus fed 5000 and 4000. True or False?
18. What two figures appeared with Jesus during the transfiguration?
19. What is the importance of Matthew 16 and 18 when applying it to the church?
20. Read Matthew 19:17. Is Jesus not good? What is being expressed here?
21. Read Matthew 22:13-14. What is being expressed here?
22. Are there greater punishments in hell for greater sin? Or is one sin just as bad as another?
23. Skim Matthew 24. What is the context?
24. Did Judas want to betray Christ? Why or why not?
25. Use a verse from Matthew's gospel which proves the Trinity.
26. What is the purpose of a parable?
27. Jesus cast out demons (Mark 5), can we? Why or why not?
28. Use the Gospel of Mark and prove the doctrine of eternal punishment.
29. Read Mark 10:26-27. What is being expressed here?
30. In what garden was Jesus arrested?
31. What time of day did Jesus die?
32. What disciple(s) were present at the cross?
33. Of the sayings of Jesus while on the cross, which impacts you most and why?
34. To whom did Luke write his Gospel?
35. Who was John the Baptist's mother?
36. In Matthew 5 we have a sermon on a mountain, in Luke 6 it is on the plain. Is this a problem with the reliability of the Bible?

37. What woman got up and began household chores after Jesus healed her of a fever?
38. Which disciple walked on water?
39. What is the meaning of the parable of the good Samaritan?
40. What two men tried Jesus?
41. Read Luke 24:45. What is being expressed here?
42. What is an ascension?
43. What was Jesus' first miracle?
44. Read John 3:3. What is being expressed here?
45. Read John 5:21. What is being expressed here?
46. Read John 6:44, 6:65. How does this relate to the unsaved?
47. Read John 10:11-15. What is being expressed here?
48. Read John 15:16. What is being expressed here?
49. Who is the comforter?
50. Who is the second comforter?
51. What does the second comforter do for us according to Jesus?
52. What is the formal prayer Jesus prayed in John 17?
53. Read John 17:9. What is expressed here?
54. During the crucifixion, name 3 things which were fulfilled from the OT.
55. Why did John write his Gospel?
56. Who wrote the book of Acts?
57. What is the overall picture in Acts?
58. What 2 disciples stand out prominently in the book of Acts?
59. What disciple replaced Judas?
60. At Pentecost the 120 disciples spoke in what language?
61. What does it mean to "break bread?"
62. Read Acts 4:27-28. What is being expressed here?
63. Who is chosen to serve in Acts 6?
64. According to Acts 6, what is the biblical role of elders or ministers in the church?
65. What is a martyr?
66. Two people fell dead at Peter's feet. Who and why?
67. How many missionary journeys did Paul take?
68. Paul was a mentor to what young pastor(s)?
69. What person did Paul appeal to be tried before?
70. Who was Paul? Circle all that apply... Tarsian, Roman, Apostle, Jew, Pharisee.
71. How many NT letters did Paul write?
72. What epistle did Paul write before he died?
73. Jude and 2 Peter have some identical content. True or False?
74. John the Baptist wrote 1, 2, and 3rd John. True or False?
75. Who wrote the book of Jude?
76. What 2 epistles did the brothers of Jesus write?
77. What is the Apocrypha?
78. What is Apocalyptic literature?
79. Where did John write Revelation from?
80. Of the 12 disciples, who was not martyred? (Judas does not count).
81. What lost letter of Paul is mentioned in Colossians?
82. Here are a few discrepancies in the Bible. Read them and explain why they are not contradictions. Matthew 20:20 and Mark 10:35. Matthew 26:34 and Mark 14:30. James 1:13 and Genesis 22:1. Proverbs 26:4 and Proverbs 26:5.
83. What NT book had the most difficulty being accepted into the canon?
84. In what 3 languages was the Bible written?

EPISTLES

Give a brief description of what is in each chapter. Try first without using your Bible. Then, using your Bible if needed.

1. Romans 3
2. Romans 4
3. Romans 9
4. Romans 13
5. I Cor. 5
6. I Cor. 7
7. I Cor. 12
8. I Cor. 13
9. I Cor. 14
10. 2 Cor. 2
11. 2 Cor. 8
12. 2 Cor. 12
13. Gal. 1
14. Gal. 3
15. Eph. 1
16. Eph. 6
17. Phil. 2
18. Phil. 4
19. Col. 3
20. I Thess. 5
21. 2 Thess. 2
22. I Tim. 3
23. I Tim. 4
24. 2 Tim. 4
25. Titus 1
26. Philemon 1
27. Heb. 6
28. Heb. 7
29. Heb. 11
30. James 2
31. James 3
32. I Peter 1
33. I Peter 5
34. 2 Peter 2
35. I John 1
36. I John 4
37. 2 John
38. 3 John
39. Jude
40. Rev. 1-4
41. Rev. 13
42. Rev. 19
43. Rev. 20
44. Rev. 21

THEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE:

Write a brief description of each of the following:

1. Soteriology
2. Hermatology
3. Inerrancy
4. Canonicity
5. Trinity
6. Providence
7. Asiety
8. Imago Dei
9. Eschatology
10. Dichotomy
11. Theology Proper
12. Ecclesiology
13. Hypostatic Union
14. Pneumatology
15. Infallibility
16. Communicable and Incommunicable Attributes
17. Omniscience
18. Covenant
19. Exegesis
20. Eisogesis
21. Hermeneutics
22. General Revelation
23. Special Revelation
24. Cosmological Argument
25. Teleological Argument
26. Ontological Argument
27. Incomprehensibility of God
28. Infinite
29. Transcendence
30. Religious Affections
31. Sovereignty
32. Decree of God
33. Free Will
34. Limited Free Will
35. Liberty
36. Miracles
37. Angels
38. Demons
39. Satan
40. Exorcisms
41. Doctrines of Grace
42. T.U.L.I.P
43. Imputation of Sin
44. The Fall
45. Total Inability
46. Original Sin
47. Propitiation
48. Covenant of Grace
49. Covenant of works
50. Incarnation

51. Impeccability
52. Logos
53. Virgin Birth
54. Definite Atonement
55. Expiation
56. Particular Redemption
57. Penal Substitution
58. Reconciliation
59. Redemption
60. Resurrection
61. Humiliation of Christ
62. Intercession
63. Mediator
64. OT and NT Priest
65. Blasphemy of Holy Spirit
66. Baptism of Holy Spirit
67. Holy Spirit
68. Son of God
69. Father
70. Common Grace
71. Election
72. Predestination
73. Foreknowledge of God
74. Effectual Calling
75. External Calling
76. Born Again
77. Regeneration
78. Conversion
79. Faith
80. Repentance
81. Forensic Justification
82. Adoption
83. Sanctification
84. Hell
85. Heaven
86. Death
87. Glorification
88. Spiritual Body
89. Invisible Church
90. Body of Christ
91. Ekklesia
92. Excommunication
93. Keys of the Kingdom
94. Apostle
95. Elder
96. Bishop/Overseer
97. Disciple
98. Deacon
99. Pastor
100. Laying on of hands
101. Credo Baptism
102. Paedo Baptism
103. Covenant Community
104. Lord's Supper

105. Worship
106. Parousia
107. Immanent Return
108. Second Coming
109. Amillennialism
110. Premillennialism
111. Postmillennialism
112. Millennium
113. Rapture
114. Tribulation
115. Final Judgment
116. New heavens and new earth
117. Lordship salvation
118. Regulatory principle

OTHER THEOLOGICAL IDEAS:

Write a brief description of each of the following and if you agree or disagree with it and why.

1. Universalism
2. Dictatorial Theory
3. Annihilationism
4. Dispensationalism
5. Antinomianism
6. Purgatory
7. Arminianism
8. The Mass
9. Transubstantiation
10. Consubstantiation
11. Soul sleep
12. Limbo
13. Docetism
14. Perfectionism
15. Fatalism
16. Dualism
17. Deism
18. Pelagianism
19. Pantheism
20. Theistic Evolution
21. Evolution
22. Arianism
23. Monism
24. Gnosticism

CHURCH HISTORY:

Write a brief description of each of the following:

1. Origen
2. Tertullian
3. Josephus
4. Philo
5. Polycarp
6. Ignatius of Antioch
7. Chrysostom
8. Aurelius Augustine of Hippo
9. Pelagius
10. Pope Leo 1
11. Pope Innocent III
12. Arius
13. Synod of Dort
14. Thomas Aquinas
15. Nicene Creed
16. Apostles Creed
17. Chalcedonian Creed
18. Westminster Confession of Faith
19. Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689
20. 3 Forms of Unity
21. Ulrich Zwingli
22. Martin Luther
23. Diet of Worms
24. Erasmus of Rotterdam
25. John Wycliffe
26. William Tyndale
27. John Huss
28. John Calvin
29. Jonathan Edwards
30. John Smyth
31. Philadelphia Confession
32. Charles Finney
33. Jacob Arminius
34. John Wesley
35. George Whitefield
36. Cotton Mather
37. Puritanism
38. Pilgrim's Progress
39. John Bunyan
40. B.B. Warfield
41. Charles Hodge
42. Charles Spurgeon

CHURCH MOVEMENTS:

Write a brief description of each of the following:

1. Methodists
2. Presbyterians
3. 1st Great Awakening
4. 2nd Great Awakening
5. Southern Baptists
6. Reformed Baptists
7. Congregationalists
8. Charismatics
9. Jesus People
10. Azusa Street
11. Assemblies of God
12. Church of God (Cleveland, TN)
13. Holiness Churches
14. Plymouth Brethren
15. Roman Catholic
16. Anglicans
17. Episcopalians
18. Anabaptists
19. Lutherans
20. Moravians
21. Jehovahs Witness
22. Mormons
23. Mennonites
24. Billy Graham and Modern Evangelical Movement
25. Evangelism Explosion
26. Passion Movement
27. Leadership Movement
28. Church Growth Movement
29. Seeker Sensitive / Willow Creek Movement
30. Young, Restless, and Reformed Movement