

4 Reasons Why KSBC Should Change Leadership Structure

KSBC 08.03.08

Ephesians 4:1-13

Intro Listen carefully to this God exalting and Christian encouraging expression of praise and prayer found in Ephesians 3:20-21 . . .

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

It is in the church, our church included, that God's ability, power, activity, presence, fame and honor are proclaimed. It is in the existence, identity, activities and relationships of the church that the incredible power of God is both at work and recognized by all who will see. The purpose of God is that through the church, the wisdom and power of God be made known as the gospel of Jesus Christ is lived and proclaimed (Eph.3:7-13).

Note the practical help provided in chapter 4 for the outworking of this assignment in the life of our church. These instructions provide some structure to spell out what living as Christians means. How should those connected to Christ by grace conduct themselves as a church given their diversity, challenges, opposition?

4:1-6 Work hard at living in unity and at peace with one another in submission to the Holy Spirit.

4:7-13 Organize to receive help and support of Christ appointed gifts, including gifted leaders.

One take away from these clear instructions is that God's glory will not be seen in the church unless there is some form of structure that recognizes Christ's appointment of gifted leaders, mobilizes these gifted leaders and directs these leaders to do their ministry of equipping and supporting those in Christ to do the works of service and build each other up in Christ.

In other words, stated positively, the church will function well (glorify God) in part because of Christ's apportionment or distribution of grace gifts, including leadership gifts. This truth is supported in various ways throughout the scriptures. Specifically the New Testament clearly teaches the necessity of some form of leadership structure in the church as elders and deacons are referenced as both functions and positions to be fulfilled.

Organization or structure in a church should reflect what the Bible teaches regarding where does authority reside and how are decisions to be made. Who leads, how are leaders recognized, what are their job descriptions and how are they to lead are all important structural issues for the assembly of believers who are committed to God being glorified in the church.

KSBC is going through a process that began in 2006 of a major change in how we organize or structure our approach to leadership. This morning my desire is to introduce this change in a public manner by explaining 4 reasons why KSBC needs to change our leadership structure. These reasons hopefully will connect our thinking with our history, biblical truth and our mission for the days ahead until Jesus comes.

4 Reasons Why KSBC Should Change Leadership Structure

1. To establish clarity in current leadership structure.

Explain current AC structure as shared authority/responsibility

- Believe in NT offices of pastor/elder and deacon.
- Current organization/structure is Advisory Council
 - Shared authority and responsibility between elder/deacon
 - Emphasizes system of checks and balances
 - Significant emphasis on a senior pastor
 - Congregational role unclear at times
- Current AC is working together well – change not motivated by dissension or power struggle

2. To realign with biblical norms regarding leadership structure.

Comparison of our church leadership structure with biblical norms motivate us to change in 3 specific ways . . .

- Function (Christ exalting ministry) is dependent on structure (form of leadership)
- Multiplicity of godly men as elders
- Distinct roles for elder and deacon

3. To promote unity in our church through leadership structure.

From our study of Ephesians 4 and other NT passages, unity in Christ is promoted through appropriate leadership structure and assignment.

- Grow in appreciation of Christ's headship over our church as we identify and mobilize those he has appointed to various responsibilities and ministries
- Provide better care, equipping and oversight for our church community

4. To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ through clear every-member ministry.

Biblical structure promotes Eph. 4 united body experience that magnifies Christ and his power to save.

- Live out the 'fullness of Christ' in an aggressive missional way
- Clarify expectations and involvement necessary to make the gospel known
Illus. Acts 6:7

Take Aways/Transition to LT

- Pray, interact and ask questions during this process of change.
- Submit to and learn of Christ through gifted church leaders.
- Consider Jesus and how his reputation and honor are expressed in your life.