

Question and Answer

1. Where did the SC come from?

In the early years of the ministry, there was a new interest in Bible study, new translations, Bible exposition. There were masses of young students getting together with the Jesus Movement. The Spirit of God was doing something unique, so GCC began growing explosively. People become interested in why the church was growing and pastors came by and were asking, so they started a conference — for several years did 2 conferences per year.

Now there is camaraderie and a sense of unity...

2. If limited atonement is true, then why witness?

Because you do what the Bible tells you to.

3. How do you keep factions from rising up on your staff — how do you keep them loyalty?

Loyalty is a by-product. Their loyalty is a by-product of my loyalty to them. I don't want them threatened. I want them to do what they do and watch the Spirit of God work through them. I take whoever God brings around me and I give them opportunity. I'm the last person anyone in this church wants to come to to complain about a staff member.

If someone has difficulty being loyal to the team, that is something that you might have to deal with. It takes time to build loyalty and a team. Take time.

There come times when guys are ready to do it on their own; they've learned all they can learn here and they want to go launch on their own and want to apply what they know.

4. Should the pastoral staff shepherd non-member attendees different than members?

This is a huge issue. The early church knew who the members were (by believer's baptism, in part). Now, in the church, people claim to be Christians and have never made public profession of faith by baptism and never have thought of membership. It is foundational to have them join the church. Baptize believers and have them move to membership so you can have accountability and ministry to them.

The benefits of membership are immense. (Though we have resolved to discipline people even if they are not members.)

5. Will any translation every get right the concept of Biblical slavery in the NT (an allusion to sermon from couple years ago).

The Christian Holman Standard does — the book *Slavery* is coming out in January...

6. How do you define “cultural style?”

Everything the church does to a certain degree reflects style. Clothing styles and makeup and sensible clothes aren’t the issue. Music words must be God-honoring and the music can’t be detracting. You can’t import things from the culture that reflects the basest and deviant parts of the culture.

Some music is timeless — they are classic. Sing and use those. The more timeless things are, the more I like it because I can’t chase every fad.

7. Any advice to bi-vocational pastors? How do you manage time, commitments, family?

Let’s be realistic — a bi-vocational guy won’t be able to spend the time that a full-time pastor can. Give it the best shot you can and pour out your heart and trust God. Give the people yourself, but don’t make yourself so accessible that you have no time to study because the best thing you can give them is from the pulpit.

Get good tools — it doesn’t have to be novel, it just needs to be right.

8. What does the Bible say about deaconesses?

Deacon is a word that can refer to a man or woman; it refers to servants in the church and it can refer to men or women. So the question is what role can a woman fulfill in the church? Titus 2 answers that question. (GCC has 800+ deacons — they don’t meet for meetings...)

9. If you are looking for a church (as a pastor) would you accept a call to a church that doesn’t hold to your exact doctrine?

I would — I did (church was started by a Methodist arminian). Why would you go to a church that doesn’t need you. If there is a difference, if you teach faithfully, you will expose those who teach in error instantly. Find out who those people are and love them and endear yourself to them.

We can’t go around and around and minister to those who agree with us. Nothing changes in that setting. Paul always had to go back and change things in the church. That’s what we do. We chase after the wandering sheep...

10. What will you preach after Mark?

I’m not sure. I have some ideas, but I don’t know.

