

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX
THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Session 6
Relationally Based & Accountable Leadership

1 _____ BASED

Every believer is connected relationally in authentic, unified fellowship and community with other members of the church

Relationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• of or relating to kinship• characterized or constituted by relations
Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the fundamental part of something

Therefore, the Church at South Las Vegas is founded/based on people who are actively involved in relating to God and each other in meaningful fellowship and shared community.

KEY SCRIPTURES

❖ Acts 2:46-47

- So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The Importance of Christian Relationships

1. *I belong in God's family with other believers*

Eph. 2:19 (TLB)

You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Rom. 12:5 (NIV)

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- What significance does a finger have apart from the hand?
- When you are missing, the body suffers loss and is less effective and efficient.

2. *I need _____ to grow spiritually*

Hebrews 10:24 (Phillips)

Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good

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deeds

Eccles. 4:9-10, 12 (GNB)

Two are better than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him... Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.

3. _____ when we fellowship together

Mt. 28:20 (NIV)

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

4. I need _____ to grow spiritually

Prov 27:17 (JB)

Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin

Prov. 27:17 (GNB)

People learn from each other, just as iron sharpens iron

- a. Sin seems glamorous . . . outwardly it smells good, it tastes good!
- b. It's when sin pulls you down that you begin to realize that it is sweet in your mouth, but bitter in your stomach!
- c. We really need to encourage one another so we don't get trapped by the glamour of sin.

5. Christian Relationships serve as _____

Jn 17:21-23 (NIV)

That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Jn 13:35 (TLB)

Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

- The world has heard the promises, they have heard about the power, but they are looking for proof!
- I am obligated to love every other Christian!

Q: How Do We Make Sure That We Have Strong Relationships at the

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Church at South Las Vegas?
A: By The Honor One Another System

The "One Anothers" of Godly Fellowship (a partial list)

- _____ one another (Rom 12:10)
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.

- _____ one another (Rom 13:8)
- Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

- _____ one another (Rom 15:7)
- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

- _____ (have concern) for one another (I Cor 12:25)
- so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

- _____ one another (Gal 5:13)
- You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

- _____ with one another (Eph 4:2)
- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

- _____ to one another (Eph 4:32)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another,

- _____ one another (Eph 4:32)
- forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- _____ to one another (Eph 5:21)
- Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

- _____ one another (1 Thess. 5:11)
- Wherefore **comfort** yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

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- Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and **edify** one another, even as also ye do.

- _____ for one another (Jas. 5:16)

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- Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
- The moment you become a Christian, God endows you with spiritual gifts
- A spiritual gift is the special ability given by God to the believer for the purpose of MINISTERING (or serving) others.

I Cor. 12:5, 27 (TLB)

There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving ... all of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

WE NEED EACH OTHER! WE NEED RELATIONSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AND EACH OTHER'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Pet. 4:10- (TLB)

God has given each of you some special abilities; ***be sure to use them to help each other***

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2

Every believer is covered by the biblical authority of an accountability leadership structure. They are leaders in the community by being under authority themselves.

Accountable	1:subject to giving an account :ANSWERABLE 2:capable of being accounted for :EXPLAINABLE 3. synonym see RESPONSIBLE
Leadership	1:the office or position of a leader 2:capacity to lead 3:the act or an instance of leading

KEY SCRIPTURES

❖ **I Thess. 2:3-4, 12**

For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men **approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God**, who tests our hearts. . . . encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

❖ **James 3:1**

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

The Church of South Las Vegas is a congregation under the authority of God and governed by the person of Jesus Christ, Who is the Head of the Church. The Holy Bible provides the principles by which The Church is governed and the Holy Spirit guides, informs and empowers us in every activity, procedure, action and policy.

Organizationally and in regards to accountability, the Church is an elder-driven, staff lead, and congregationally informed church.

Understanding that all authority on the earth is delegated authority that originates in God, and that authority creates a covering of accountability, the Church at South Las Vegas is structured as follows:

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GOD

FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT

The Word of God

BOARD OF ELDERS

LEAD PASTOR

— APOSTOLIC ADVISORY BOARD

PASTORAL TEAM

CONGREGATIONAL
LEADERS

CONGREGATION

The Apostolic Advisory Board

The Apostolic Advisory Board consists of leaders who operate within the five fold ministry offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, as defined in **Ephesians 4:11-13**

It was he (speaking of Jesus Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The Apostolic Advisory Board Consists of:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1. | Wendell Smith | The City Church, Seattle, WA |
| 2. | Ken Wilde | Capital Christian Center, Boise, ID |
| 3. | Randy Vilamont | Griffin First Assembly of God |
| 4. | Mike Robertson | Family Fellowship Church, Oceanside, CA |
| 5. | Glen Berteau | Calvary Temple, Modesto, CA |
| 6. | Mike Servello, Sr. | Mt. Zion, Utica, NY |
| 7. | Dave Stevens | Eastside Assembly of God, Tucson, AZ |
| 8. | Billy Farrar | Bethel Assembly, Sedro Woolley, WA |
| 9. | Doby Weasel | Glad Tidings Church, Omaha, NB |
| 10. | Ed Russo | Victorious Life Church, Tampa, FL |
| 11. | Charles Gaulden | Evangel Cathedral, Spartanburg, NC |

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The Board of Elders Consists of:

1. Benny Perez The Church of South Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
2. Jude Fouquier The City Church, Seattle, WA
3. Mike Robertson Family Fellowship Church, Oceanside, CA

The Pastoral Team Consists of:

1. Pastor Benny Perez: Lead Pastor
2. Pastor Wendy Perez: Women's Pastor
3. Pastor Tom Westerfield: Executive Pastor
4. Pastor Paul Treichel: Pastoral Care
5. Pastors Ben & Katie Brinkman: Youth Pastors and Intern Directors
6. Pastor Henry Sneed: Pastor of Community
7. Pastor Justyn Smith: Children's Pastor

Every person in leadership and in a position of responsibility has a covering that they are accountable and answerable to!

The Attitude of the Leader Who Exercises True Spiritual Authority

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed— not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence— continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Four Types Of Authority

1. Civic (Political and Governmental)
2. Family (Parental)
3. Church (Spiritual)
4. Social (Teachers, Bosses, Career)

The Purposes of Authority

- They set _____ for our protection.
- They set and inflict _____ for injustices done.
- They arbitrate in the matters of indifference.
- They give _____ when direction is needed.

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Church authorities

- They keep watch over our souls.
- They raise us up and train us for _____.
- They release us into _____.
- They love us, encourage us and discipline us.
- They guide us.
- They prepare the way for those behind them.

Honoring Authority

Romans 13:1-8

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

The whole topic of authority can be a very touchy subject due to the misuse of authority by people with wrong motivations. Or, it can be taken as a means to set oneself up on a pedestal. This is about neither. It is about teaching what Godly authority is and how to honor authorities.

Godly authority is about influence and responsibility (read Matthew 10:25-28) and not necessarily about control, as is often wrongly assumed.

Honor:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to regard or treat with respect,• the value of something precious,• of the honor one has due to their rank or office held
Authority:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the power of influence and right (privilege);• power of rule or government

- Every person alive is under some type of authority and will be until the day they die.
- Authority is a God-thing, not a man-made thing.
- By honoring authority, we honor _____. By dishonoring authority, we dishonor God.
- Authority is simply about: _____ and responsibility.
- Authority is meant to work to our advantage.

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- God uses authority to establish order.
- Authority comes out of God's order, not necessarily rank or seniority.

Covered By The Authority of God

When we use the phrase "under cover", what thoughts come into your mind? It could range anywhere from a child being covered with a blanket to police detective work to a spy operating covertly in a foreign land. In every instance that we could think of, the phrase "under cover" always carries with it the thought of Protection and Freedom.

What can this mean to a Christian?

Psalms 91:1-2

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Simply put, it means that the one dwells in the place of safety under the shadow of the cross will place his faith and confidence in Jesus and under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Authority is one of those words that strikes fear and dread into the heart of man.
- ❖ No one will rule over me!
- ❖ I have my rights!
- ❖ I make my own decisions.
- ❖ No one likes to be under the authority of another man, but we all must realize that any authority is ordained of God.
- ❖ It is the Father who establishes those who have the rule over us and if we reject that authority then we reject the plan of God for our lives and the protection and benefits that His protection will bring.

Why do men reject authority over them?

What do you think is the root cause of so many of the battles and difficulties that we face in the modern day church?

That root cause is nothing more, and nothing less than _____ against the authority that God has placed over us because we don't like or agree with those in that position of authority.

Many Christians take the attitude that they don't need to be under submission to anyone because they can go straight to God for their leadership and answers.

None of us are above God's laws of authority. God has placed within our lives those who are in authority over us for His purpose. No matter how bad it may seem for the moment, there is no authority unless God has foreordained it.

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Hebrews 13:17

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

1 Peter 2:13-16

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

1 Peter 5:5-7

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

Rebellion is:

- The reason why _____ --rebellion against the power and authority of Almighty God brought about by self-pride and jealousy;
- The reason why _____ --rebellion against the controlling and restricting Word of God that was meant to protect him, because Adam, like Lucifer, wanted man to be his own god and equal with God.
- The reason why many people still lose out with God--because they refuse to allow the authority of God to control their lives and retain their right to do as they please.

Sometimes that rebellion is not easy to recognize because Satan is such a great deceiver that we don't realize that we have disobeyed God until much time has past and we are trapped in our sinful condition.

At The Church of South Las Vegas, every leader and every believer must guard against the sneaky nature of rebellion by being in complete submission to the authoritative principles of God's Word, which is a revelation of His divine will and pleasure, unless we become like King Saul, in the Old Testament, who was trapped by his desire to please people more than God.

1 Samuel 15:16-23

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. ***I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.***

- To obey is better than _____ (religious acts)
- To obey is better than _____ (the best you can give)

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- Rebellion is like _____ (which was a death sentence)
- Arrogance (pride) is like _____ (worshipping another god, namely self)

God's ways are good for us. Place your faith in God for He is an all-knowing and all-wise Protector of His people. His Word is sharper than a two-edged sword and He is loving and kind in His methods. God is always moving on our behalf to bring us into a place of greater joy and blessings in Him.

- God's authority brings us into _____.
- His authority is based upon _____.
- His authority is designed to prepare us to receive our great eternal reward.
- God's authority is also designed to give us the best in this life!

That's why we must be willing and ready to submit to His great authority in our lives!

Practical Ways to Honor Authority

Honoring authority is to respect and value those in authority over you because of the influence and responsibility they carry for your life.

Honoring Pastors

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **(1 Timothy 5:17)**

Practical Ways to Honor Authority

1. Love them _____ (1 Peter 4:8).
2. Submit to them _____ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-17).
 - a. Submit: a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility & carrying a burden
3. Protect their _____ (1 Timothy 2:19).
4. Serve them gladly (Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Peter 4:10). Serve them the way that you have been gifted to serve.
5. Challenge them righteously (Matthew 18:15).
 - a. Pray over the alleged offense and get God's perspective.
 - b. Go to them within three days privately, without speaking to anyone else first.
 - c. Appeal to them as a father (this will ensure the proper respect).
 - d. Listen to their counsel, if any, and then pray about it if needed.
 - e. Be sure to stay away from personal opinions and stick to scripture.

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6. Give them double honor (1 Timothy 5:17-18).
7. Honor their personal time (Mark 6:30-31).
8. _____ for them _____ (1 Timothy 2:1).
9. Make their vision your vision (2 Timothy 2:1-3)

Remember, to the degree that we are in submission to the authorities over us, people in our care will be in submission to our authority. The same holds true for our families. Don't expect your children to submit to your authority, if you are in rebellion against those in authority over you.

Finally, what do we do when those in authority over us require of us to do what contradicts the Word of God?

We must have a _____ and _____ attitude, like Daniel and the three Hebrew sons, when asked to worship a false god. They appealed to the higher authority of God, whilst acknowledging the authority of the unrighteous ruler. They knew that God could change their situation!

The same principle is evidenced with Peter and John, who acknowledged their rulers, the Sanhedrin, but humbly stated that they have to obey God regardless.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

Therefore,

- We _____ the king (representing governmental authorities) and
- _____ our taxes (give Caesar his due) and
- _____ in the process of determining policies and who goes into office.
- We also talk to the Ultimate Authority (_____), appealing to the Lord to give our authorities (civic, parental, church, and social) wisdom and to turn their hearts to what is right and godly.

A church whose people are accountable and submitted to authority, can exercise their divinely ordained authority and leadership in a city to great effect. They can expect signs and wonders and a great harvest of souls as they challenge spiritual wickedness in high places, because they are fully submitted to God, representing God in the earth.