

Subject: RE: confusion about pastor firings, public announcement & precedent
Date: Thu, 11 Oct 2007 22:32:36 -0700
From: scott@acts29network.org
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED],

I appreciate your love and concern for these men. My heart is heavy right now as well. A team of elders **just concluded a conciliatory process** with these two men. Be patient, trust Jesus and rest in the fact that this is His church. I do not expect you to understand the gravity of the situation with limited information. This is a legal proceeding, is supervised by our lawyer and as a result, is not a familial discussion. It was what Paul and Bent specifically requested. However, we are bound by our own judiciary system to act justly. After due process, the elders will rule according to Bylaw procedure and the members will be informed. This takes the church through a sanctification process -- elders and members. It is more painful but at the last bears the needed fruit. You have to endure as well. You have to trust Jesus and His under shepherds to complete the task assigned in the time allotted (Oct 15).

Thanks,

Pastor Scott

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 1:49 AM
To: Pastor Scott Thomas
Subject: confusion about pastor firings, public announcement & precedent

I read Pastor Jamie's announcement last week with some sadness and confusion. I understand the need for courtesy and respect of privacy but as I attempt to understand the following:

- 1) firing two pastors and announcing this to the church body,
- 2) the by-laws say a pastor can be suspended on credible charges of moral or doctrinal wrong
- 3) 1 Timothy 5:19-20 says to not accept accusations against elders without two or three witnesses
- 4) and says that spiritual leaders rebuker sinners publicly so that the rest may also fear
- 5) Pastor Jamie has said the fired pastors have not been accused of any moral or doctrinal error at all

This seems to create more rather than less confusion and presents a precedent that confuses me.

It seems that firing two pastors; barring them from service in ministry and voting on church issues; and publicly announcing this to the body seem necessary and good if the pastors are guilty of moral or doctrinal error, are not repentant, and an investigation has already been completed establishing their guilt. It seems baffling if they have not been accused of anything but their firing has simply been announced prior to an actual investigation.

It is particularly confounding for me in light of the precedent established by the pastoral announcement about Xxxxxxx Xxxxxxxx two years ago. She was found to be in unrepentant sin, was determined to have never been a Christian, and was allowed to leave the church with an admonition to the Mars Hill body to not ostracize but welcome her back if she chose to return. I trust that once the investigation and disciplinary process is complete we'll hear from the pastors but I wonder if Pastor Jamie's announcement is having the unintended effect of fueling rather than stifling speculation. I will keep praying that the Lord's will be done and that He will guide the church where He wishes and that the Enemy will not sow discord.