

DOCTRINE & SHEPHERDING QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questionnaire is the second formal step in the eldership process at Redemption Church Gateway. This questionnaire will explore a) your doctrinal understanding and convictions, b) how you'd handle some potential shepherding situations, and c) a few vision-oriented questions.

Please answer all of the following sections in this document with *complete honesty*. These questions are designed to get to know more about you and to assess your readiness to serve as part of the Elder Team. Additionally, this questionnaire will help your supervising elder craft a customized growth and development plan if you are approved to continue into the Candidate Phase.

Please answer the questions electronically in this Word Document. When completed save the document as "Doctrine & Shepherding_Your Name" and email it to your supervising elder.

Thank you for taking the time to pursue eldership. Regardless of the specific outcome, our prayer is that you would grow spiritually through the process and experience God's grace abundantly.

DOCTRINAL QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTE: You do not need to write an in-depth theological essay on each of these questions. Please limit your answers to two paragraphs (at the most).

1. Who have been your primary theological teachers, or influences? In other words (apart from the Bible), what authors, theologians (either living or dead), movements, denominations, or schools of thought have most influenced your theology?
2. Outside of the Bible, what is the most theologically intensive book you have read cover-to-cover?
3. What is the gospel? (i.e. theologically speaking, *not necessarily* how you would explain the gospel message to a non-Christian)
4. Please give your view of the Scriptures.

5. Briefly describe your philosophy of 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? (e.g. God's sovereignty vs. man's responsibility, free will, who are the elect, etc.)
8. What is your view of Creation? How do you go about explaining the "image of God"?
9. How has Adam's sin affected our nature and our ability to choose in regard to good and evil?
10. What is the purpose and role of the church in the world?
11. How is the local church *similar to* and *different from* an organization?
12. Briefly describe your view of local church government, including the offices, who can/should hold them, and who has final authority for decision making?
13. What is your eschatological position?
14. What is your view of the "sign" spiritual gifts (tongues, healing, words of knowledge, etc.)? Are they still in operation today? Explain.

15. What are your views on the relationship between biblical counseling and psychology?

16. What are your views on homosexuality and same-sex marriage?

17. Please list 6 core convictions concerning which you (as an elder) will never give in, nor even bend on, as you help lead the church. Please give at least 3 scripture references to back up each one.

SHEPHERDING SITUATIONS

NOTE: For the following situations, briefly explain how you would handle the situation if you were an elder in the church.

18. A man in the church approaches you and says that he and his wife have some serious concerns about the student ministry. He says “a lot of parents” share his concerns. How would you approach this?

19. In preparing for a building project, the elders are discussing whether to borrow money to build and, if so, how much to borrow. What principles would guide your thinking in this area?

20. A new Christian who is new to church hears that you are an elder and asks, “So, what does an elder do?” How would you respond?

21. One of your close friends is a leader in one of the church’s ministries. He comments that he thinks his ministry needs more support (budget, promotion, resources) from the church and wonders if you’d be willing to “go to bat” for the ministry. How would you approach this?

22. A young couple approaches you after a church service. They are concerned about the church spending so much money on staff, facilities and technology when there are so many poor, unreached people in Africa. They're becoming disillusioned with the "American church." How would you help them?

CHURCH VISION

23. How big would you hope to see Redemption Gateway grow?

24. What concerns you about Redemption Gateway?

25. What are your favorite things about our church?