

# What We Teach

## THE CHURCH

We teach that the one supreme authority for the church is Christ ([1 Corinthians 11:3](#); [Ephesians 1:22](#); [Colossians 1:18](#)) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders (also called bishops, pastors, and pastor-teachers; ([Acts 20:28](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#)) and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications ([1 Timothy 3:1-13](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [1 Peter 5:1-5](#)).

We teach that these leaders lead or rule as servants of Christ ([1 Timothy 5:17-22](#)) and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership ([Hebrews 13:7, 17](#)).

We teach the importance of discipleship ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [2 Timothy 2:2](#)), mutual accountability of all believers to each other ([Matthew 18:5-14](#)), as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture ([Matthew 18:15-22](#); [Acts 5:1-11](#); [1 Corinthians 5:1-13](#); [2 Thessalonians 3:6-15](#); [1 Timothy 1:19-20](#); [Titus 1:10-16](#)).