

## Examination for Elder Candidates

### Purpose:

The purpose of this exam is to evaluate the theological strengths and weaknesses of elder candidates as well as identify the depth of alignment regarding philosophy of ministry. This is not a pass or fail exam. You should expect to receive encouragement and constructive feedback to strengthen your understanding of biblical doctrine and ministry philosophy.

### Instructions:

You are free to use your Bible and other resources to complete this exam. Please cite the references you use. We encourage you to answer each question thoroughly but also as succinctly as possible.

### Hermeneutics:

1. What is the literal-grammatical-historical method of interpreting the Scripture? Do you agree with the hermeneutic? Explain.
2. What are the broad differences between dispensational and covenantal hermeneutics?
3. What is the difference between a dispensational Baptist and a reformed/covenant Baptist.
4. Which hermeneutic do you prescribe too and why?
5. How many meanings can we assign to a particular passage or verse in the Bible?

### Bibliology:

6. Explain what the bible teaches about the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of the Bible.
7. Is God still revealing new truth today or is God's revelation closed?
8. What role does the Old Testament Law play in the life of a believer today?

### Theology proper:

9. How has God revealed Himself to humanity?
10. What is meant by the incommunicable attributes of God?
11. What is meant by the communicable attributes of God?
12. Please explain the doctrine of the Trinity.
13. How do you reconcile man's responsibility with God's sovereignty?
14. What is your view of Creation? How does it compare to the other views? How is a Christian's answer to this topic significant to their life?
15. What is God's will? How can a Christian discern God's will in day to matters of life?

### Christology:

16. Explain the person of Christ using the Scriptures to provide evidence for both his humanity and divinity.
17. What is the hypostatic union? Why is it essential for Christ to be both fully God and fully man?
18. Explain Jesus' ministry as our High Priest and its significance to Christian life.

### **Pneumatology**

19. Who is the Holy Spirit and what role does He play in the life of the Christian?
20. What does it mean to be baptized, indwelt, sealed, and filled with the Holy Spirit?
21. What are the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit and how are they used?
22. What is cessationism and continuationism? What is your personal conviction regarding the sign gifts?

### **Soteriology**

23. What is the doctrine of redemption and how do you reconcile man's responsibility and God's sovereignty?
24. Explain the Calvinistic view of salvation (TULIP) and provide your conviction on each component.
25. Share the gospel as if you were witnessing to an unbeliever.
26. What is repentance and how does it relate to salvation?

### **Ecclesiology**

27. What is the local church and what is its purpose?
28. What is discipleship? How is it relevant to a believer, and how would you go about the process of discipleship?
29. What is the purpose and calling of an elder? What role and function does an elder have in the local church? What is the importance of a plurality of leadership?
30. What is church membership and how do you support it biblically?
31. What is church discipline and why is it necessary?
32. What is biblical community? Should a church require it? Why or why not?
33. What is the purpose of the Sunday gathering?
34. What is preaching and what is its purpose? Who should preach? Explain the difference between exegetical, expository, and topical preaching. What type or blend do you believe best builds up the local church in our context and why?
35. What is the difference between the regulative and normative principles of worship? Which principle would best facilitate the purpose of the Sunday morning gathering?
36. What is the difference between complementarianism and egalitarianism? What role in leadership do you believe the Bible teaches women should have within the church? In what context should they teach? Are there any restrictions?
37. What is Baptism? Who is it for? What does it do, mean, or symbolize? What is your view on infant baptism?
38. What is the Lord's Supper? Who is it for? What does it do, mean, or symbolize? How often should it be taken?

### **Eschatology**

39. What is your eschatological view? How does your stance on this matter impact your theological views?
40. What is the significance of the imminent return of Christ?

## Culture

41. How should a Christian think about politics? What is the framework a believer should use to decide who to support politically?
42. What is post-modernism, how is it influencing culture at large, and what is a biblical response to a post-modern worldview?
43. What is Critical Theory? Identity politics? Intersectionality? How should a Christian view these? What is the biblical approach to racism and oppression?
44. What does it mean to be pro-life? How would you counsel a couple or individual who was considering an abortion? How would you counsel a couple or individual who was considering adoption or foster care?
45. What is your understanding of God's design for human sexuality? How does your understanding coincide with the present LGBTQ+ movement? How should believers act regarding this issue? How would you respond to the assertion that Christians today are on the "wrong side of history" when it comes to gay marriage?
46. Is it okay for believers to use contraception? Artificially inseminate? Freeze embryos? Why or why not?

## Other:

47. Why do trials occur? What is the purpose of suffering?
48. On what basis, if any, are divorce and remarriage allowable? Explain. Can a person who has been divorced be remarried? How do you interpret the "exception clause" found in the Gospel of Matthew? Can a man who has been divorced serve as an elder?
49. What is biblical accountability? Are there any areas that are off-limits within an accountability relationship? Why or why not? Are there any topics that are off limit within your current community group?
50. Is it okay for believers to drink alcohol? What are "areas of conscience" and what does the Bible say about them? What are areas of conscience where you have decided to restrict yourself where Scripture allows for freedom? In other words, what are some personal convictions in your life?
51. What happens to babies who die in infancy or early childhood? Do they go to heaven?
52. What is a biblical view of monetary giving? Is tithing biblical? What is different between giving in the Old and New Testament? Do you have a personal framework for giving to the church versus giving to other ministries? What other philosophies about charitable giving do you hold that would be beneficial for us to understand?
53. Is debt biblically allowable? Should Christians have debt? Are there different types of debt? What personal debt do you currently have? Who spoke into the decision to take on that debt and how did you get comfortable doing so?
54. Should we be a place that is "confidential" or "safe"? What is the difference?
55. What is the difference between shepherding hearts with the gospel and managing behaviors with the law/rules?

56. What role should counseling have in the life of a believer? What should counseling look like and in which contexts should it occur? Should we ever recommend a licensed counselor?
57. Are there any aspects of Watermark's Seven Essentials or Full Doctrinal Statement that you either disagree with or lack a firm position on?
58. Are there any beliefs, lifestyle, habits or history that would surprise the elders or are inconsistent with their values?