

Podcast: Confessing The Faith

Episode 32: Congregationalism

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Q1: Dr. Renihan, before we get to the subject of Congregationalism, would you give us a brief update on the progress of the Seminary? [1:15]

Q2: Why is it important for us to talk about church government? [3:04]

Q3: What are some other forms of church government besides Congregationalism? [3:57]

Q4: I did not grow up in a congregational church, but in one that was elder ruled only. The stereotype that I remember hearing was that in Congregational churches the members voted on everything, even the color of the carpet. Is that true? [7:22]

Q5: Would you say that pastors/elders do have have authority within the congregation and are to rule? [9:21]

Q6: What would you say to the one who says, "but wouldn't things go more smoothly if we..." [11:01]

Q7: So the question is, what do the scriptures say? [14:18]

According to scripture, what power do the members of the local church have?

Appointment and removal of officers

Reception of new members

Church discipline

According to scripture, what power do the elders and deacons within the local church have?

[21:31]

Q8: Can you make a case from the scriptures in favor of congregational voting? [27:22]

Q9: In your opinion, what percentage should be required to make a decision valid? [36:49]

Q10: In your opinion, how should the congregation cast their votes? By ballot, voice, raise of hand? [38:54]

Q11: In your opinion, how should elders make decisions amongst themselves? [40:38]

Q12: Book recommendations? [42:59]