

Teleios recently conducted a survey of pastors graduating from 3 Bible believing seminaries to assess if they maintained Biblical exhortations or support extra Biblical attitudes in their church.



Sun Valley, CA



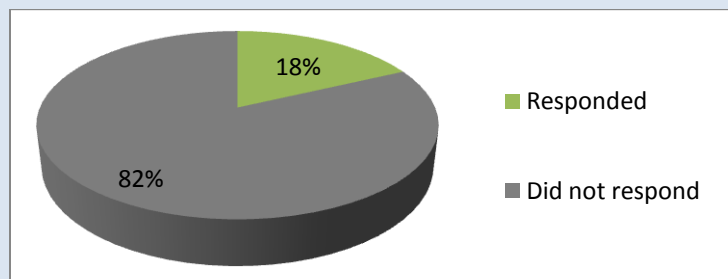
Littleton, CO



Glenside, PA

Survey questions were based on issues derived from Scripture and from known popular maxims within the modern church.

This survey was sent to 1085 pastors of whom 200 responded.



Respondents were asked to provide scaled answers on Survey Monkey to indicate the extent they believed various body life issues were important.



0=not important

1=somewhat important

2=generally important





3=very important

Our results showed that pastors believed it was 'important to 'very important' for church members to maintain Biblical exhortations in their Christian life (average: 96%).

Extra-Biblical attitudes, although perhaps accepted or fashionable within the church, were less often considered either 'important' to 'very important' (average: 33%). Look at the results!

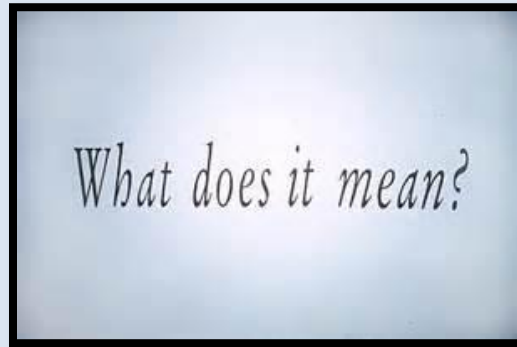
**Table: Average ratings for questions
(N = 200)**

(Biblical exhortations are highlighted in orange and extra-Biblical attitudes are highlighted in green)

| Answer Options | Rating average | |
|--|----------------|---|
| My congregation's attitude towards other members should be expressed by: | | |
| An "agape" type love consistent with the Bible | 2.9 |  |
| Bearing one another's burdens | 2.8 | |
| Praying for each other | 2.9 | |
| Helping others find their spiritual gift(s) | 2.0 | |
| Encouraging each other to godliness | 2.8 | |
| Participating in an accountability group | 1.9 | |
| Maintaining the unity of the body of Christ | 2.8 | |
| My congregation's attitude towards the church should be that each member: | | |
| Serves God through the church | 2.6 |  |
| Is grateful for fellow members, lay leaders and pastors | 2.8 | |
| Desires more church programs, larger facilities, greater membership | 0.6 | |
| Desires a greater emotive worship experience | 1.0 | |
| Assures success of church organized programs by their participation | 1.3 | |
| Views it as a source of: prayer, praise, teaching, fellowship and outreach | 2.8 | |
| My congregation's speech should: | | |
| Not be used to satisfy personal emotions but to serve the needs of others | 2.6 |  |
| Express gratitude | 2.8 | |
| Always say what is on their heart | 1.1 | |
| Honor others | 2.8 | |
| Be slow to initiate and quick to listen | 2.4 | |
| Share details about another church member's spiritual difficulties | 0.5 | |
| Regarding the community outside the church my congregation should: | | |
| Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to unbelievers | 2.9 |  |
| Socialize primarily inside the church to maintain purity of the body | 0.7 | |
| Make disciples and impart the Word of God to others | 2.9 | |
| Speak and live in a way that reflects Biblical values | 2.9 | |
| Enhance the society in which they live by word and deed | 2.5 | |
| Only serve outside the church if all specific church needs have been met | 0.7 | |

0=not important; 1=somewhat important; 2=generally important; 3=very important

From the pooled responses we found statistically higher ratings for each of the four questions about Biblical exhortations compared to extra-Biblical attitudes questions ($P < 0.0001$).



- ❖ These findings should encourage church members and clergy because:
 - They demonstrate that many pastors recognize the importance of maintaining fidelity to Biblical teachings.
 - Extra-Biblical attitudes are deemed generally less important.

- ❖ As adherence to God's word has been shown in the medical literature to be associated with greater wellbeing, these findings should further inspire pastors and seminaries not to bend their theological stance to cultural trends.^{1,2}

This study showed that individuals trained in Bible believing seminaries continue to hold to those principles once they become pastors.



For a copy of this infographic for your own use please [click here](#).

1. MacIlvaine, W.R., Nelson, L.A., Stewart, J.A., Stewart, W.C. (2013). Association of strength of religious adherence to quality of life measures. *Complement Ther Clin Pract*, 19:251-255.
2. MacIlvaine, W.R., Nelson, L.A., Stewart, J.A., Stewart, W.C. (2014). Association of strength of community service to personal well-being. *Community Ment Health J*, 50:577-582.