



Episode 5: The Authority Question

Discussion Guide:

- Over the years we have seen many pastors exit the ministry due to abusive leadership patterns or contributing to a toxic leadership environment. Why do you think this is a problem that the church faces?
- How does a toxic leadership environment affect the staff of a church? Does it affect the congregation of that same church in the same way? How are those outside the church affected by seeing the effects of that toxic leadership environment?
- What challenge do good pastors face when walking the line between avoiding abusive leadership styles and withdrawing from authority all together?
- Read these Scripture passages on authority: 2 Samuel 23:3-4; Hebrews 13:17; Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:1-5. List four biblical traits of healthy authority.
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- How can the church support Christians who have been in abusive church leadership situations? What steps can a church take to help them feel comfortable returning to church?