

THE SEVEN SHARED VALUES RESOURCES

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As we hope this issue of the SG Journal makes clear, our *Seven Shared Values* are more than just “denominational distinctives.” They capture biblical realities we pray will shape our entire family of churches. And each value opens up wide vistas of biblical truth and theological reflection that can nurture our souls and transform our lives. This issue would not be complete without pointing to resources that explain, celebrate, and help us apply the truth that informs these values.

We’ve included here a range of books, some aimed at popular audiences and some more technical. And no doubt we’ll omit a book you love and have benefitted from! But we hope this list will bring helpful titles to your attention and encourage you to explore the richness captured in our *Seven Shared Values*.

Reformed Theology

What is Reformed Theology?, by R.C. Sproul. A very readable, God-exalting overview of Reformed theology by one who taught millions these glorious truths.

Chosen for Life, by Sam Storms. For a treatment of the doctrine of election that is thorough yet clear, persuasive yet courteous, deeply theological yet

wisely pastoral, this book is hard to beat.

Redemption Accomplished and Applied, by John Murray. A classic treatment of the nature of Christ's saving work and how it is applied to our lives.

Esp for pastors: *Providence*, by John Piper. Working your way through Piper's majestic tour of God's "purposeful sovereignty" will refresh your soul and deepen your grasp of the worldview that is Reformed theology.

Gospel-Centered Doctrine and Preaching

The Cross of Christ, by John R.W. Stott. This classic book has stood the test of time in exploring the glories, dimensions, and implications of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

The Cross and Christian Ministry, by D.A. Carson. This book has long been essential reading, especially for pastors, in grasping the foundational role of the gospel for life and ministry.

Living the Cross-Centered Life, by C.J. Mahaney. A succinct, pastoral, and practical guide to living in light of the cross by one of the most gospel-centered pastors we know.

Esp for pastors: *In My Place Condemned He Stood*, by J.I. Packer and Mark Dever. There are riches on every page of this collection that celebrates the glory of the atonement, but pastors especially should not miss Packer's "What Did the Cross Achieve?" and his introduction to Owen's *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*.

Continuationist Pneumatology

Showing the Spirit, by D.A. Carson. A masterful and clearly written exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14 that provides clarity and much wisdom on the Holy Spirit and the gifts he gives to the church.

God's Empowering Presence, by Gordon Fee. Building on an examination of every Pauline text that mentions the Spirit (800pp!), Fee then summarizes a Pauline pneumatology (100pp.) that reveals the centrality of the Spirit for the life of God's people. One can find a much more concise treatment of this material in Fee's *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*.

Systematic Theology, 2nd ed., by Wayne Grudem. This book has done much

to shape our family of churches over the years, but chapters 39, 52, & 53 are particularly clear and cogent treatments of continuationist convictions.

Esp for pastors: *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts*, by Max Turner. With depth and exegetical precision, Turner explores the New Testament's teaching on both the gift of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit, as well as their use in the church today.

Complementarianism

Men and Women in the Church, by Kevin DeYoung. If we had to recommend one book that summarizes biblical teaching on this topic with faithfulness, clarity, and accessibility, this would be it.

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, eds. John Piper and Wayne Grudem. This landmark book, published in 1991, remains the gold standard for comprehensively articulating the complementarian worldview. Given the vast cultural changes over the past 30 years, the revised version currently in process will be invaluable to a rising generation of pastors and church members.

God's Design for Man and Woman, by Andreas and Margaret Köstenberger. This book takes a biblical-theological approach in tracing Scripture's teaching on manhood and womanhood from beginning to end, along with some very helpful concluding applications.

Esp for pastors: *Women in the Church*, 3rd ed., eds. Andreas J. Köstenberger and Thomas R. Schreiner. This thoroughly updated collection of essays on 1 Timothy 2:9-15 presents a decisive case for a complementarian reading of this pivotal text.

Elder-Governed and Elder-Led Churches

How Jesus Runs the Church, by Guy Prentiss Waters. Although differing at points with SGC polity, Waters provides a clear, biblical treatment of how Christ's authority is mediated to his church through its leaders (he also argues for extra-local polity among churches).

The Shepherd Leader, by Timothy Z. Witmer. In a very readable fashion, Witmer explores both the biblical foundations and the vital roles of Christian leadership.

Biblical Eldership, by Alexander Strauch. This book not only describes the multi-faceted role of the elder but makes a compelling apologetic for the role of elders in the leadership of the church.

Esp. for pastors: *Preaching and Preachers*, by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Although not a book on ecclesiology per se, this classic text will reinvigorate a pastor's vision for the priority and promise of what is most central to his ministry in the church.

Church Planting, Outreach, and Global Mission

Salvation to the Ends of the Earth, by Andreas Köstenberger and Peter T. O'Brien. By tracing the theme of mission throughout Scripture, this book inspires us in our mission by revealing that it is, in fact, God's own mission, central to salvation-history and part of God's eternal purposes.

What is the Mission of the Church?, by Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert. This important book brings much needed clarity and discernment to the many claims made about what the church is called to do.

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, by J.I. Packer. A must-read book that informs and inspires all dimensions of our evangelism and outreach.

Esp. for pastors: *Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul*, by P.T. O'Brien. Drawing from Paul's life and ministry, this book clarifies the gospel's power and priority in mission and the church's role in its advance.

United in Fellowship, Mission, and Governance

Reformed Dogmatics, Vol 4, by Herman Bavinck. Tucked deep in this magisterial work, Bavinck's chapter on "The Church's Spiritual Power" (ch 7) traces the church's ecclesiology throughout its history and persuasively asserts both the integrity of local churches and the necessity and wisdom of connectionalism among churches (Bavinck's arguments were influential in the formulation of SGC's own polity).

Churches Partnering Together, by Chris Bruno and Matt Dirks. Although one may not agree with every pastoral decision described in this book, the authors make a compelling case for the biblical priority of partnership, not simply among Christians but especially among churches.

Collected Writings of John Murray, Vol. 1, by John Murray. Two chapters in this collection—“The Biblical Basis for Ecclesiastical Union” (ch 36) and “Corporate Responsibility” (ch 37)—make a biblical case for cooperation among churches.

Esp. for pastors: *The Church of Christ*, by James Bannerman. This classic, 19th-century treatment of ecclesiology leaves few stones unturned, but Part IV (“Parties In Whom the Right to Exercise Church Power Is Vested”) is particularly relevant to SGC polity in its evaluation of independency and congregationalism.

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