

# Notes On Church Relations (Part 2)

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## 1 The issue

Another note on church relations. I recently heard that my home church is in the midst of a dispute. The elders have apparently taken issue with some theological stance the pastor takes, something along the lines of Calvinist doctrine (election over free will). Hearing at least second or third hand, one elder had suspected the pastor of being a radical Calvinist, who had purposefully joined the church to subvert them along these lines. The pastor has been dissatisfied with the way the elder board has handled the issue. Evidently they wanted to modify the constitution to forbid the pastor from teaching on this subject. To lend credence to this view, one elder has resigned, apparently in disagreement with the handling of the issue. Evidently he had wanted to study the theological topic in dispute in order to determine how best to address the issue. He had planned a meeting to discuss the issue, which a few of the elders had not attended. The pastor scheduled a business meeting (originally for tomorrow, 2022-11-19), to either resign or recall and refill the elder board. The pastor was formally dismissed by the elder board Wednesday (2022-11-15).

I recognize that you can't roll over and let bad theology take over the church, nor can you force the issue on the elder board, who I generally believe should have the authority on matters of doctrine and leadership like this, but both seem to me to have been a bit underhanded and high on their power or role.

I am frustrated and cynical when I see people acting selfishly and in what I perceive to be a machiavellian way like this. I also do not deal well with being dissatisfied or let down by people I have known or relied on...rather that I have thought reliable, regardless of whether or not I actually relied on them for something. I get angry and bitter. If  $x, y, z$  aren't reliable or moral, how could anyone be? I similarly cannot trust anyone currently in my life, much less myself.