

Autobiography

I grew up in the church and my formative years were spent at Calvary Chapel (non-denominational, arminian, baptist, dispensational) as well as Vineyard Christian Fellowship (third wave continuationist). From an early age the Lord developed in me a deep spiritual hunger. At the age of twelve, I decided I wanted to be a pastor when I grew up. However, in late High School I underwent a serious season of willful backsliding which was culminated in my arrest for drunk driving (I was convicted of a 'Wet and Reckless' which is lower in terms of severity than a DUI). The Lord extended unimaginable grace to me in that winter season of 2008. I was able to continue my military training in ROTC and Biblical and Theological Studies (which hadn't yet begun) at Biola (though both programs put me on probation when I told them what happened). Westminster Confession of Faith 5.5 perfectly summarizes how I think about this time in my life (my only regret about the Three Forms is that they don't have a comparable section!).

Since that time, I have grown exponentially in my faith. After graduating in 2012, I got married and entered active duty with my wife. We were separated about 50% of the time during the first 3 years of our marriage. The chronic separation coupled with an extremely competitive and stressful work environment brought us almost to the point of divorce. But, God held our hands tightly and walked us through many dark times. Through these challenges, the Lord produced a steadfastness in my heart that I had never known before. My assurance in Jesus Christ, though at times wavering, is overall set in stone. I have given my whole life to Him, and trust Him with everything. After spending 12 years preparing for full-time ministry, I feel very confident that this is what the Lord has for me and my family. I am ready to be spent for His glory. I must decrease and He must increase. Olivia and I look back on the very difficult seasons

in our lives (not just my sin and our marital issues, but also parental divorce, parental abuse, and toxic work environments) and we recognize how fleeting life is. We desire earnestly to give our lives in the service of the God who not only shepherded us through dark times, but, most importantly, gave His only Son for our sake.

My lifelong goal is to pastor a congregation of people who love Jesus. I desire to lead God's people toward His purposes by faithfully and powerfully preaching the Word of God, in season and out. Further, I desire to walk with a community of believers, serving them in every way I can--counseling, leadership, discipleship, service, and by setting a godly example. I also desire to be challenged and to be shaped by the church so that I will grow alongside them. I have realized firsthand the futility of life without Jesus Christ and I want to help people see His glory so that they will find true life in Him. I am convinced of historic Reformed theology, as set down in the Westminster Standards and in the curriculum at Westminster Theological Seminary. However, I recognize that I often misunderstand God and His word so I will not allow my theological convictions to be dividing walls between me and God's people. Whether atheist, agnostic, anglican, or whatever form of evangelical, I want to enter into meaningful, loving relationships so that Christ's Kingdom will be realized in the hearts and souls of His elect.