

ZACK ESWINE ELDER MEETING AFFIRMATION

After a good, long pause, someone says, "Not for shameful gain."

For the next few minutes we share with one another the temptation to use our work as elders in such a way that we gain sinfully from the people we serve, like how holding a cup so that our member with verbal palsy can drink from its straw can turn into a dark temptation to be seen by others for the way we care for people. We turn this conversation to prayer. Then I simply read down through the next section of bullet points.

We remember:

- A church meeting is not a business meeting. We have a different bottom line.
- Our goal is not, as a norm, to do large things famously as fast as we can.
- No relationship is on the line tonight. We give each other the benefit of the doubt.
- Most of the time hurry will not help us.
- Building relationships and sharing our lives together is part of our agenda and is no waste of time.
- Oftentimes, we differ or disagree as a matter of temperament and perspective and not because one of us is sinning and the other one isn't.
- We are quick to give and to receive forgiveness when we do sin against each other.
- We seek to do our meetings the way elders are meant to do ministry.
- This thing we are doing is about Jesus, not us.