

Handout for Unit 1 in Pastoral Theology

The Physical and Emotional Health of the Man of God

NOTE: The following is a covenant which a certain pastor drew up after having a serious heart attack. He had previously ignored the obvious signals which his body was sending to him and the expressions of concern from his wife. Subsequent to having a pacemaker implanted, he drew up this "solemn covenant" and gave me a copy of it, giving me permission to use it as I saw fit.

ANM

THE SOLEMN COVENANT OF KILBIRNIE PLACE

It is hereby declared most definitely, dogmatically, decidedly and determinedly, that a certain mad preacher by the name of _____ - to be referred to hereafter in this document as "the Turkey" - will submit to his wife's direction in matters medical. When the aforementioned wife tells him to phone the doctor the aforementioned Turkey will do so without dispute, dissertation, deliberation, or dissent. When the aforementioned wife states that a medical checkup, either at the doctor's office or the emergency department of the local hospital is indicated, the aforementioned Turkey will not denounce her with John Knox-like thunderings, oppose her with Calvinian logic, change her mind with Spurgeonian persuasion, or resist her with Athanasian obstinacy. He will, with that sweet reasonableness, indescribable meekness, and overpowering sweetness, with which he has now become possessed, simply answer her, "Whatever you say dear;" or it may be permitted for him to say, (at his wife's discretion of course) "Yes dear."

To this non-negotiable, never-to-be-changed-document, I hereby fix my signature, and agree on any occasion when the aforementioned wife deems it necessary, this document may be waving under my nose, or all else failing, stuffed down my throat!

(Signature of any "Turkey")